

# THE INDEPENDENT

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# Clinton flies in to Russian chaos

PRESIDENT Bill Clinton will arrive in Moscow today pledging continued US support for Russia so long as its leaders "stay on the path of reform" and do not revert to the communist ways of the past.

Speaking just before his departure to Moscow for two days of talks, Mr Clinton made no direct mention of the embattled Boris Yeltsin, who suffered a further setback yesterday with the Russian parliament's rejection of Viktor Chernomyrdin as prime minister.

"The Russian people are to be commended for embracing

BY PHIL REEVES  
in Moscow  
AND AGENCIES

democracy and getting rid of the old communist system, but they're having some troubles today making the transition from communism to a free-market economy," Mr Clinton said. He made clear, however, that he saw an important purpose in the summit, which some foreign policy experts have said should be postponed at least until Mr Yeltsin has created a governing coalition.

Russia's Communist-led

parliament roundly rejected President Yeltsin's nominee for prime minister in a move the Kremlin said could set off mass unrest and is certain to prolong the country's economic agony. Mr Chernomyrdin, who has been acting prime minister since Mr Yeltsin sacked Sergei Kiriyenko just over a week ago, won just 94 votes in the 450-member state Duma.

The rejection of Mr Yeltsin's candidate - the worst result ever for a Russian premiership nominee - also brought closer a major showdown, with pressure increasing on the ageing

Mr Yeltsin to quit and Mr Yeltsin, in turn, threatening to dissolve the Duma. The President re-submitted Mr Chernomyrdin's candidacy hours after the Duma's rejection, and members now have one week to reconsider.

Mr Chernomyrdin - who served five years as premier until Mr Yeltsin replaced him in March with Mr Kiriyenko - said that, despite his defeat, he would go ahead and propose an acting cabinet team to Mr Yeltsin. "Russia cannot do without a government," he said. "Russia today is, in essence, on

the verge of economic and political breakdown."

Back in the United States, President Clinton said: "What I want to do is to go there and tell them that the easy thing to do is not the right thing to do. The easy thing to do would be to go back to the way they did it before, and that's not possible. But that if they will stay on the path of reform to stabilise their society and strengthen their economy and get growth back, then I believe America and the rest of the Western nations should help them and indeed have an obligation to help them."

Mr Clinton made no mention of specific agreements he expected to reach during the Moscow summit, but he said there were many foreign policy issues that needed airing - strife in the Balkans, nuclear proliferation and terrorism.

Mr Chernomyrdin, meanwhile, promised the Duma he would protect the public's savings, prevent a collapse of the banking system and support farms and industry. Analysts fear that could fuel new inflation.

The acting prime minister had already made consider-

able concessions, including giving parliament more say in policy and promising to restore more state control over the economy, in draft pacts hammered out with the Duma parties over the weekend.

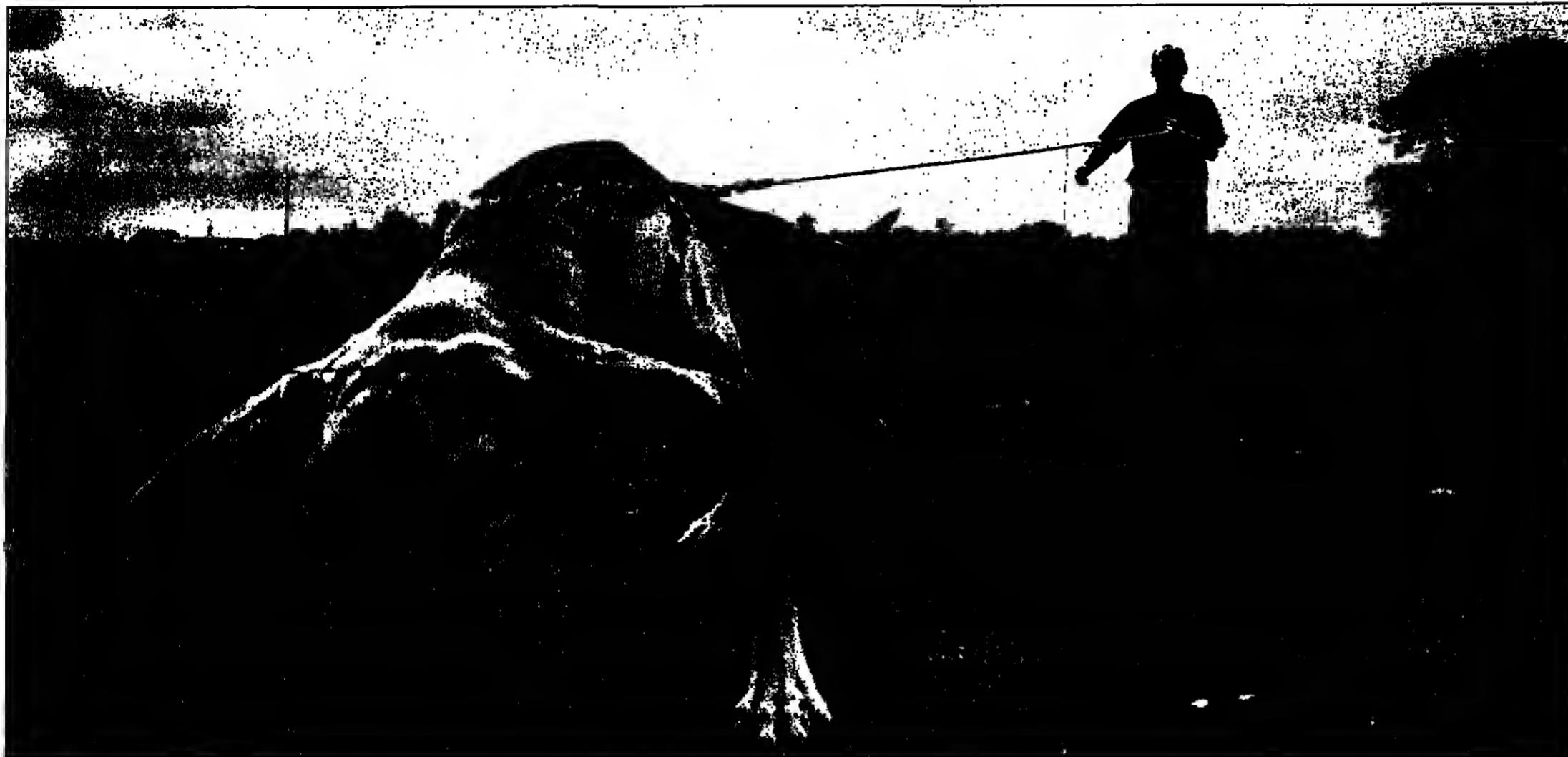
But the Communist leader Gennady Zyuganov, rejected the deal at the last moment late on Sunday evening. Communist sources said he did so because he believed Mr Yeltsin would back away from giving up key powers that would have left him with greatly reduced influence.

Despite Mr Yeltsin's deter-

mination to see out his term of office, pressure is building once again for his resignation, and the Left may find an ally in the powerful business interests that want to see Mr Chernomyrdin appointed in the hope of averting further economic losses.

They, and Mr Yeltsin's family, may be ready to press the president to quit in favour of his premier or at least take a back seat until his term ends in 2000.

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Sherlock the bloodhound gets on the trail with his trainer PC Malcolm Fish and shows why he is a better tracker than German Shepherds now used by police forces

David Rose

## Hounds return to scene of the crime

BY JASON BENNETT  
Crime Correspondent

BLOODHOUNDS, the wrinkled-faced stars of many a Hollywood thriller, look set to be used by British police forces following research that found they are far better tracked dogs than the traditional German Shepherds.

They are already being tested by Essex, Devon and Cornwall, and Dyfed-Powys police forces and a Home Office funded research project is to recommend using the dogs nationally. They can track human scent that is up to 20 hours old compared with German Shepherds that can only manage a maximum of about two hours.

PC Malcolm Fish, a dog instructor with Essex police, in charge of the research, is studying two eight-month-old Bloodhounds, Sherlock and Morse, along with two German Shepherd dogs, Regan and Scully. Critics say the dogs are too placid but PC Fish argues they would be used for tracking.

## Blair plans new powers to seize assets of terrorists

BY PAUL WAUGH  
Political Correspondent

that it is rushing through blanket legislation without detailed consideration.

Ministers insist that the Bill is highly specific and forensic in its nature and will have to be renewed annually to remain on the statute book.

The decision to publish the Bill today was another attempt to placate Labour MPs, some of whom were furious at earlier suggestions that it was to be made public tomorrow morning, only a few hours before they were due to vote.

The Bill will allow suspected members of the Real IRA, Continuity IRA, the INLA and the Loyalist Volunteer Force (LVF) - will be specifically targeted in the bill published today.

By naming the groups in the Bill, the Government hopes to end off backbench criticism

the LVF to be convicted on the uncorroborated evidence of a police officer and will allow courts to take into account any refusal to answer questions.

In an attempt to curb international terrorism, such as the bombings of United States embassies in east Africa, it will also contain measures to ban British-based groups that conspire to commit offences abroad.

Despite the Government's assurances, rebel Labour MPs are still planning to vote for an amendment drawn up by the party's former Northern Ireland spokesman Kevin McNamara.

Mr McNamara's amendment is expected to be tabled today and will claim that the Bill contravenes the European Con-

vention on Human Rights, the International Convention on Civil and Political Rights and the procedures of the newly established International Criminal Court.

It will also claim that previous miscarriages of justice, such as the conviction of the Birmingham Six and Guildford Four, prove the dangers of sweeping police powers.

The Lords will consider the Bill on Thursday and if there are no substantial amendments it will become law.

The Irish government is also pushing through similar anti-terrorist measures this week and both governments want them in place ahead of the visit to Northern Ireland on Thursday by President Bill Clinton.

BY RICHARD LLOYD PARRY  
in Tokyo

NORTH KOREA, the last surviving Stalinist dictatorship, proved once again that the Cold War is not quite over when it fired a long-range ballistic missile over the Japanese mainland yesterday, sending alarm throughout Asia.

The rocket was first spotted by an American Orion spy plane and last night Russian and Japanese ships were steaming towards the spot in the Sea of Japan, south-east of Vladivostok,

where the first stage of the missile is believed to have landed. A second stage was said to have flown over Japan to land in the Pacific Ocean - proof that the

a test, but given suspicions that North Korea may possess one or more nuclear warheads, its successful launch will increase tension in the region. The US Secretary of State, Madeleine Albright, said she was alarmed. "This is something that we will be raising with the North Koreans," she said.

According to defence officials in South Korea, the weapon was the new Taepo Dong I, with a range of 1,240 miles, capable of striking Tokyo, Taipei and Seoul.

The Japanese government's chief spokesman, Hironori Nakata, said the test "will have a serious impact on the situation in north-east Asia".

North Korea's missile programme has long been a cause

of concern, not only for the threat it poses to neighbouring countries but also because of the regime's sales of weapon systems to other countries. Pakistan, Iran, Iraq, Libya and Syria are all believed to have been buyers. Recently, sales have plummeted. Among the reasons for yesterday's test may have been the desire to advertise one of its biggest export earners.

But the timing suggests political motives. Next week North Korea's acting leader Kim Jong Il is expected finally to be elected president. "One interpretation is that this missile is a gift, a demonstration of strength presented to the new leader on his accession," a foreign diplomat in Seoul said.

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**Landowners 'still blocking rights of way'**BY PAUL WAUGH  
Political Correspondent

MPS CALLED on the Government to push ahead with a statutory right to roam yesterday after campaigners claimed landowners continued to block rights of way. Page 4

The Ramblers' Association published a report it said proved the Country Landowners Association had done little to meet its promise to open up footpaths across private land. It claims that the leaked report into footpaths on a farm in Wiltshire was a perfect example of how the CLA had failed to improve public access.

The assessment, carried out by the CLA on behalf of the Countryside Commission, found that bridleways were blocked and that a special access site was restricted by electric fencing.

The Ramblers' Association said that the case proved that the £70,000 of public money given to the CLA to improve access had been wasted. Since the site visit to Wiltshire a year ago, little improvement had been made.

Gordon Prentice, MP for Pendle, said the report was further evidence that landowners could not be trusted voluntarily to guarantee public rights of way.

He will ask the Deputy Prime Minister, John Prescott, to investigate allegations that the CLA wasted public funds.

The CLA claimed that in the past five years a total of 1.1 million acres had been opened up voluntarily by landowners.

It said that the Countryside Commission had not complained about the assessments and had even been part of a steering group to oversee its officer's work.



Ramblers walking past barbed wire yesterday in Long Cope, near Lane End in Buckinghamshire. John Voss

Under a scheme called Access 2000, the CLA was given the cash to fund a full-time worker to tackle farmland nationwide where footpaths were blocked. Yet out of 20 planned assessments of problem land, just nine had been carried out and campaigners say that just 20 acres has been opened up in 18 months.

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Diana anniversary: All-night vigils in Paris and London, floral tributes at Kensington Palace and Harrods

# Royal Family pray while Fayed unveils a shrine and a curse

BY GLENDA COOPER

"ARE WE allowed to smile?" said one girl posing in front of the shrine to Diana and Dodi as her mother took her photograph. "Yes, of course - let's have a nice smile," said her mother, in astonishment, clicking away.

Having a shrine to Diana and Dodi in Harrods inevitably meant more spectacle than solemnity. While the Windsors and the Spencers yesterday opted for low-key commemorations of the Princess, the tribute by Mohamed Al Fayed was huge, opulent and impossible to ignore.

Mr Fayed strode into the store at 1.45pm promising that his "Egyptian curse" would seek out those responsible for the Paris deaths. He said he had come to Harrods because he knew "thousands of people were here waiting for me ... it is the ordinary people who have given me support. They know exactly what's happened."

With both families out of London - the Windsors at Balmoral and the Spencers at Althorp - once again the public grumbled that the Royal Family were hiding from the People. ("They haven't learnt a thing," one quipped sniffling.) So the shrine, the tributes and Mr Fayed's walkabout followed by burly minders and scurrying journalists was the nearest they came to a semblance of last year's drama. If Diana's relations didn't want to know, then the people would stick with Dodi's.

People clutching their Harrods roses and their Harrods food hall bags the prudent had obviously decided to combine the mourning with a bit of shopping) queued to look at the two shrines, one in the window, destined for Mr Fayed's home, and the other at the foot of the Egyptian escalator. Five books of condolence were ready to be signed.

"God bless you Dodi and Diana, you are in Paradise" ... "You will always be together in Heaven" ... "Dodi you will never be forgotten by the genuine English people" ... "Dodi, the only man never to betray the princess" were a sample of the sentiments expressed.

For this was Dodi and Diana - The Love Story. Never mind that their romance had been a mere few weeks, or that her friends cast doubt on whether the relationship would have



Mohamed Al Fayed on walkabout yesterday outside Harrods. "I am sure they are happy together," he said. Right: an 8ft-high shrine to the Princess and Dodi Fayed inside the store Tom Pilston

developed. No, this was Abelard and Heloise, Romeo and Juliet, Tristan and Isolde all rolled into one. Whether people would have been as happy with a Mr and Mrs Fayed in reality was not open for discussion.

"The Establishment will not accept that Dodi as an Egyptian and as my son would have been the man that would have married Diana," said Mr Fayed yesterday. "I pray my beloved son and his dearest Diana have found peace and comfort in heaven. I am sure they are happy together."

Few disagreed. Dorrie Mitzman's remark - "It was only a holiday romance and I don't think anything would have come of it" - was not the sort that was appreciated.

"They would have definitely got married and they would have had a child," predicted Rose Drew, who was waiting to give her flowers personally to Mr Fayed. "Oh really, how can you say to me it was just a holiday romance?"

"I think it's important that we've come here for both Dodi and Diana," said Sheila Cooper-

er from Twickenham. "He made her very happy in the last few months of her life. No other man had."

The off-high shrines reflected this romantic view. Large and ornate, two gold entwined D's encircle pictures of the two lovers resting on top of bronze fountains. In the background the new CD by George Benson (£3.99, available within the store) in honour of Dodi softly played. In another corner there were tributes including a 4ft-tall red heart left by well-wishers.

"The shrine symbolizes Diana and Dodi's last holiday together when they were both very happy," explained Laurie Mayer, Mr Fayed's spokesman. "The seagulls and the greenery are reminiscent of the Mediterranean; the water represents eternity and the candles are obviously everlasting."

Most of those who came had visited Kensington Gardens or Buckingham Palace last year and were planning to go there after visiting Harrods. They were firmly supportive of Mr Fayed.

"I think it's disgusting," said Mary Mestabti from Rusch. "I don't know why they can't just give him British citizenship. We know that Dodi was the only man that ever made her happy."

Mr Fayed reiterated his feelings about last year's crash: "I am just looking to God. I will not rest." he said. "If it is not an accident and if it is murder, be sure that whoever did this murderer will not escape from God. My Egyptian curse will not let them get away with it."

Asked if he had any message

for the Royal Family, there was a pointed pause. "I'm not sure about that, really. I feel sorry for the princes. They are very close, very loving and the most important thing to me ... But I am suffering too. I lost my son."

Clutching their CDs and flowers, most mourners agreed. "The Royal Family should be here. They haven't learnt anything," said Pauline Cheddy from Bath. "I feel sorry for the princes and I think people will never forget Diana and the way she was treated by

them," added Natalie Foord from Adelaide, Australia.

Last night the Harrods store, normally illuminated by 11,000 lightbulbs, was to remain in darkness except for the memorial window. It was the sort of gesture the people outside liked.

Diana captured Dodi's heart. They represent lovers everywhere," cooed Ms Drew. And then, on a more practical note, she added: "And [Mr Fayed] is the only person who has put up a memorial that people can come and see for free."



## No hysteria, but lots of flowers, tears and flags flying at half mast



A child lights a candle for Diana in Westminster Abbey yesterday

BY STEVE BOOGAN AND LOUISE JURY

THE HYSTERICALLY outpouring of grief never materialised, but there was enough evidence of mourning yesterday to show that, one year on, the Princess of Wales still occupies a special place in the nation's psyche.

All day long, people queued, some in tears, at Kensington Palace to lay flowers in her memory while less than a mile away, others gathered at the memorial to Diana and Dodi at Harrods.

Cathie Kirk at Balmoral where, only hours after their mother's death, the Princes William and Harry were taken to pray, was once again the place chosen by the Royal Family to remember Diana. The public were excluded for a 15-minute service when prayers were said for the Princess.

The Prime Minister, Tony Blair, and his wife, Cherie, arrived first at the small church, followed later by the Queen, the Duke of Edinburgh, the Queen Mother, Prince Edward, the Princess Royal, her husband,

Captain Timothy Laurence, and her daughter, Zara Phillips. At Althorp, the Spencer family seat in Northamptonshire, the public was also excluded from a small lakeside service opposite the island on which the princess is buried. Instead, thousands laid flowers at the gates of the estate.

Earl Spencer, who shocked the Royal Family with his criticism of them from the pulpit at Westminster Abbey, joined other family members, including his sisters, Lady Jane Fellowes and Lady Sarah McCorquodale, for a quiet ceremony. For the past two months, up to 2,500 people a day have paid £9.50 to visit her memorial.

Prayers were said at services at Westminster Abbey, while, at the Roman Catholic Cathedral in Westminster, more than 1,000 people heard Monsignor George Stack speak of Diana's dignity and compassion. "It

has surely been a surprise to us all that it seems it was her vulnerability which allowed people to empathise with her," he said.

At Buckingham Palace, the flag was flown at half-mast, in contrast to last year when none was raised as the Queen was not in residence - until a public outcry forced it down.

And there were prayers, too, in Paris, where hundreds of mourners, including many Britons, staged an all-night vigil above the Fun D'Alma underpass, where the Princess and Dodi died exactly a year earlier at 11.25pm British summer time. At the Statue of Liberty flame, visitors left flowers and wrote messages and poems in many languages.

But it was at Kensington Palace where, once again, most grief was displayed. About 100 people had maintained a candlelight vigil over night. By dawn, their numbers began to swell considerably. The mood outside Diana's old home was quiet, reflective, but, unlike last year, not

so many people stood with tears running down their faces.

Ian Jackman, 34, a hotel manager and a devoted fan who had spoken to Diana over 100 times, flew back to Britain yesterday morning from Paris where he and three friends had spent the anniversary of her last evening with Dodi at the scene of the crash. "It was very emotional," he said.

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# Britain's tiger economy is Worthing

BY ANDREW BUNCOMBE

**ENVY** THE lucky traders and business people of Worthing.

The south coast resort, known for its genteel atmosphere, Regency architecture and bracing sea air, is the most profitable town in Britain according to a new survey.

The figures show that businesses in the West Sussex town enjoy an average profit margin of around 21 per cent.

Britain's next most profitable town, Warrington, scores just under 20 per cent, while businesses in Dundee, placed third, achieve an average profit rate of almost 19 per cent place.

Some people might be surprised by the findings. To many Worthing is the epitome of a quiet, polite and even rather dull seaside town, a far cry from fashionable Brighton, its racier neighbour.

Few would expect it's residents - many of whom are retired - to be so industrious. The thought of tiger economies does not spring instantly to mind.

But findings of the survey, carried out by the global information group Experian, suggest profitable towns share

a number of characteristics. These include excellent communication and transport links, a high number of skilled workers and a well-established manufacturing base.

Many profitable areas are seeing an expansion into high-tech business services.

Yesterday, Worthing Borough Council's economic development officer Tim Preston, said the town fulfilled all these criteria.

"Major companies coming to Worthing have recognised the professionalism and skill of our labour force, coupled with the fact that the number of school-leavers achieving more than five GCSEs with grades C or above is 10 per cent above

the national average," he said. "In addition the town has excellent transport links, including easy access to Gatwick Airport, the Channel ports and the Channel Tunnel."

He said companies investing in the town included the Daewoo Motor Company, SmithKline Beecham Pharmaceuticals, and Griffin Credit Services.

The survey which analysed the profits of around 200,000 companies in England, Wales and Scotland, showed a huge degree of regional variation.

Perhaps as can be expected, the survey found the most profitable businesses are concentrated in the south and south-east of England. Only

seven English locations in the north and 11 in the Midlands made it into the top 50.

Meanwhile Swansea, the most profitable location in Wales, only reached 22nd place in the overall list. Aberdeen, Britain's oil capital and the fifth most profitable location in Scotland, was placed 50 overall.

Not all was well in the south-east, however. Folkestone came in bottom position just behind Ramsgate and Sittingbourne, whose figures were all heavily in the red. This led Kent to be branded as Britain's least profitable county.

Worthing itself is not resting on its laurels. The Council is currently working on a "strategy for the 21st Century" to improve its shopping and retail facilities.

The locals are also keen to counter the view that their town is old and grey. Becky Gibbs, 20, a receptionist at the town's Burlington Hotel, said: "There are hundreds of young people here at weekends and they are all along the front in the evenings. There are loads of bars and clubs which are heaving. Young people love it here."

**THE TOP 10**

Worthing (20.9)
Warrington (19.57)
Dundee (18.75)
Andover (18.61)
Newbury (18.40)
Newcastle upon Tyne (15.94)
Exeter (15.19)
Perth (14.55)
Evesham (13.55)
Banbury (13.46)

**THE BOTTOM 10**

Stockton on Tees (-2.33)
Boston (-2.40)
Solihull (-2.44)
Scunthorpe (-2.75)
Brentwood (-3.02)
Wells (-5.24)
Salisbury (-5.81)
Sittingbourne (-9.38)
Ramsgate (-18.89)
Folkestone (-25.13)



The sleepy image of Worthing is a myth - the seaside town has the highest profit margins

Philip Brown

## Savings rates INCREASED at Nationwide

FROM 1ST SEPTEMBER 1998

## NEW RATES FOR PERSONAL INVESTORS

CashBuilder		FlexAccount		
Gross p.a.	Net p.a.	Gross p.a.	Net p.a.	
£50,000 +	5.70%	4.56%	3.52%	
£25,000 - £49,999	5.40%	4.32%	3.27%	
£10,000 - £24,999	5.00%	4.00%	2.70%	
£5,000 - £9,999	4.80%	3.84%	2.16%	
£1 - £4,999	4.60%	3.68%	1.44%	
£1 - £499	1.50%	1.44%		
CapitalBuilder		Special Renewal Bond		
£50,000 +	6.70%	5.36%	6.80%	
£25,000 - £49,999	6.40%	5.12%	6.48%	
£10,000 - £24,999	6.10%	5.08%	6.52%	
£1 - £9,999	5.90%	5.83%	6.08%	
Monthly Income		InvestDirect		
£50,000 +	6.40%	5.12%	6.34%	
£25,000 - £49,999	6.10%	4.98%	6.08%	
£10,000 - £24,999	5.90%	4.84%	6.00%	
£1 - £9,999	5.60%	4.48%	5.92%	
TESSA		Bonus 60*		
£1 - £9,000	8.00%	6.40%		
TESSA 2		Annual	Monthly	
£1 - £9,000	8.00%	6.40%	6.16%	
Bonus Saver*		Gross p.a.	Net p.a.	
£1 +	8.30%	6.56%	5.04%	
The Smart Account		Gross p.a.	Net p.a.	
£1 +	8.00%	6.40%		
Smart 2 Save		Gross p.a.	Net p.a.	
£1 +	8.00%	6.40%		
Members' Reward Bond		Annual	Monthly	
Annual	Gross p.a.	Net p.a.	Gross p.a.	Net p.a.
£1 - £10,000	8.55%	6.86%	8.25%	6.60%

## NEW RATES FOR BUSINESS INVESTORS

Business Investor		Treasury Trust Account	
Gross p.a.	Net p.a.	Gross p.a.	Net p.a.
£50,000 +	5.70%	4.56%	3.52%
£25,000 - £49,999	5.40%	4.32%	3.27%
£10,000 - £24,999	5.00%	4.00%	2.70%
£5,000 - £9,999	4.80%	3.84%	2.16%
£1 - £4,999	4.60%	3.68%	1.44%
CapitalBonus 180		Portfolio Investor	
£25,000	6.15%	5.56%	7.70%
£10,000 - £24,999	6.05%	5.32%	6.16%
£1 - £9,999	6.00%	5.30%	5.76%
CapitalBonus 90		7.00%	5.60%
£25,000 +	6.40%	5.12%	7.20%
£10,000 - £24,999	6.10%	4.88%	6.08%
£1 - £9,999	5.90%	4.72%	5.52%
CapitalBonus 90 Monthly/Half Yearly		7.00%	5.60%
£25,000 +	6.10%	4.88%	6.65%
£10,000 - £24,999	5.80%	4.64%	6.10%
£1 - £9,999	5.60%	4.48%	4.88%
BonusBuilder		DoubleBonus	
£25,000 +	5.40%	4.32%	6.08%
£10,000 - £24,999	5.00%	4.00%	5.44%
£1 - £9,999	4.80%	3.84%	
Subscription Share		£1 - £200 per month	£1 - £400 per month
		8.20%	6.56%

\*Bonus and Bonus 2 Saver rates include a 10% gross p.a. bonus which is variable and is credited to the account annually if no withdrawals are made during the calendar year. Bonus 2 Saver includes a 10% gross p.a. (10.40% net p.a.) bonus which will end if no withdrawals are made. The bonus is variable but is guaranteed to stay until the end of term. TESSA, maximum age for regular 18 years. Order one TESSA per person. Term 5 years. Maximum investment limits are £3,000 on first year and £1,000 in subsequent 4 years unless to the extent of £10,000. Minimum TESSA 1 order is £3,000 and TESSA 2 order is £1,000. CapitalBonus 180, 90 and CapitalBonus 90 are available in TESSA 1 &amp; 2. No higher bonus will be paid on the master balance at the end of the TESSA 2 term. Interest is subject to tax at the appropriate rate on termination prior to maturity for any reason other than death. TESSA are subject to inland Revenue regulations which may vary. One of the Spanish officers at Cadiz said: "The officers and I had been treating Mr Noye

## Murder victim's girlfriend help police identify Noye

THE GIRLFRIEND of the M25 "road-rage" murder victim was flown to Spain to provide identification leading to the arrest of suspect Kenneth Noye, it has been claimed.

Danielle Cable helped detectives from Kent as they carried out surveillance on 51-year-old Mr Noye, who is wanted in connection with the killing in 1996 of his boyfriend Stephen Cameron, according to Spanish police sources.

In a highly unusual move, Ms Cable, who was with Mr Cameron when he was stabbed to death, spent 12 days with a team of British and Spanish officers during the undercover operation at Barbate and Zahara de Los Atunes on the Andalucian coast.

According to senior officers from the Spanish National Police based at Cadiz, Ms Cable was with a team of four British and two Spanish officers when Mr Noye was spotted at a roadside pizza restaurant in the mountain village of La Muela. It emerged yesterday that Mr Noye was using a British passport in the name of Alan Edward Green issued on 3 December 1996. An optician said he had been treating Mr Noye at Cadiz said: "The officers and

BY KIM SENGUPTA  
NIGEL BOWDEN  
AND LIZ NASH

Danielle Cable: Identified suspect in restaurant

diplomats, were doing their utmost to clear the necessary paperwork, said Patrick Owens, an embassy spokesman.

The British Government has 40 days to begin extradition proceedings against Mr Noye, who was arrested on Friday.

Mr Owens said: "We hope this stage will be cleared rapidly. Everything that has happened so far suggests that there will be no delays and that this matter is being taken very seriously by British and Spanish officials. Once the final signatures from the Spanish Cabinet are received on the extradition papers, Kenneth Noye will be rapidly sent back to Britain."

However, according to local lawyers, it could be at least 10 months before extradition takes place. Unless Mr Noye agrees to go back to the UK, it will take at least six months before the case is heard in Madrid at the Audiencia Nacional - the central criminal court. Even if extradition is granted, Mr Noye can appeal to Spain's Supreme Court, which could take up to three months to reach a decision.

## IN BRIEF

### 'Lazy' Graham refuses to resign as MP

A LABOUR MP yesterday told of his "horror" at failing a breath test, and urged drivers to learn from his experience. Jamie Cann, 52, MP for Ipswich, failed a test after being stopped for speeding as he drove his wife, Rosemary, to a friend's house at lunchtime on Saturday. He said he did not drink on the day he was stopped, and blamed the test result on beer he drank the night before.

## Giant clock to count in 2000

THE FORTH Rail Bridge landmark in Scotland could be the spot where the nation counts in the new century with a massive clock to rival one in Paris. Railtrack has applied for planning permission for the 70-metre long, seven-metre high digital clock, with white fluorescent tubes. It would be attached to the central span of the bridge and could be in place by October. TV would beam pictures nationwide on midnight 31 December 1999.

## Death of boy 'suspicious'

DETECTIVES ARE treating as suspicious the death of a two-year-old boy, Stewart Jackson, also known as Barry McGuire, who died on arrival at Stirling Royal Infirmary on Saturday night. He was taken there by ambulance after his mother noticed he appeared unwell at his home in Denny, Stirlingshire. Central Scotland Police said they began treating the death as suspicious after a post mortem examination was carried out.

## Mother dies after Florida crash

KAY BENNETT, a British mother of three, died in a Florida hospital after being injured in a van crash that killed two British relatives. The family was driving to Orlando for a flight home when the van was hit on the driver's side by a truck driven by Richard Wayne Demilignon, 31, of Lakeland, Florida. Florida Highway Patrol said Mr Demilignon had turned left when the road was not clear.

Simon Dawson, 30 and from Birkenhead, drowned after being savagely beaten around the head. The university graduate, a twin, worked for his father's computer firm.

## Help catch killer plea to clubbers

DETECTIVES APPEALED to Wirral clubbers last night at the Ritz Nightclub for help in tracing the killer of a computer operator whose battered body was found in nearby Woodslea Pond, Bromborough, at about 8.30 Saturday morning.

Simon Dawson, 30 and from Birkenhead, drowned after being savagely beaten around the head. The university graduate, a twin, worked for his father's computer firm.



# Dobson offers 'family friendly' shifts to soothe angry nurses

BY COLIN BROWN  
Chief Political Correspondent

HOSPITALS ARE to be told to make themselves more "family friendly" for nurses in a push by Frank Dobson to head off anger over the staging of their pay award.

Speaking to *The Independent*, the Health Secretary said he would be issuing "more trenchant advice" to NHS managers about the need for better treatment of nurses with more flexible working hours to fit their lifestyles.

Mr Dobson has also written to all hospitals to ensure that they can avoid a winter crisis, which could wreck his promise to reduce waiting lists.

He has told NHS staff to ensure that local arrangements can cope with emergency pressures so that waiting list targets are achieved. His letter follows a study of NHS emergency services, showing that pressure on emergency units last winter increased in spite of the mild weather, and a harsh winter this time could see waiting lists start rising again.

Christopher Bunch, chairman of the emergency services action committee, which carried out the review, said: "Staff have coped magnificently under increasing pressure but at some cost. Stress levels are high throughout and there are staff shortages and recruitment difficulties in several areas."

Mr Dobson's determination to help nurses work more flexible hours follows a personal experience. "I can remember some years ago that three-quarters of the nurses at University College Hospital were agency nurses. When I enquired, the explanation was that the agency nurses can work what hours they like, but the ones on the NHS payroll had to work standard hours. It suited the agency nurses but it struck me that if you can order your rosters for agency nurses, you can organise them for your NHS staff."

Offering nurses more flexible working hours could allow more to come back into the pro-



Frank Dobson, the Health Secretary, hopes that more flexible working hours for nurses will help cut hospital waiting lists and keep him in a job

Tom Pilston

fection after having children. "It's clear on present levels of pay and terms and conditions, there is difficulty in recruiting and retaining nurses."

Mr Dobson also has drawn up, with the Royal College of Nursing, new guidelines for hospitals to enforce security in hospitals to stop nurses and doctors being assaulted by disturbed or drunken patients.

Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, will back up the guidelines by ordering the police to crack down on assaults on hospital staff. Lord Irvine, the Lord Chancellor, has written to mag-

istrates, telling the courts to take violent offences against NHS staff more seriously.

"We want to make working in the NHS more attractive. In the past, it was all about gagging nurses from speaking out. We will be spelling out family-friendly policies and producing a joint document on reducing assaults and abuse of staff," he said.

The Health Secretary also gave a clear signal that he will avoid staging next year's pay award to nurses.

Pay is one of the key issues that is blamed for poor re-

cruitment and retention in the NHS. The nurses' pay review body recommended an increase of 3.8 per cent this year costing £351 million extra. But as it did with all public sector groups, the Cabinet reduced the increase to 2 per cent from 1 April with the rest being paid from 1 December.

The Government is planning to deliver its submission to the pay review bodies later this month and the Prime Minister has already met them to reassure the review bodies they still have independence in spite of the change to their

terms of reference to include "affordability" for the first time.

The nurses' pay review has been told to report to Mr Dobson and Downing Street, and the Treasury is hoping that its recommendations will be kept closer to the 2.5 per cent inflation target.

The Health Secretary is also consulting the NHS groups on a long-term plan to introduce a single independent pay review body for the whole of the health service, to reduce disparities between the auxiliary nurses and porters not covered by pay review bodies and, for example,

GPs, who this year were awarded 5.2 per cent more in two stages.

But new Labour's other key pledge, to cut waiting lists by 100,000, seems like a mirage; the more people are treated, the more come on to the list. Some Labour sources said it was the fault of the copywriters when they were producing the posters for the election; they did not think a commitment to "treat 100,000 more patients" was sharp enough.

Mr Dobson knows he is saddled with it, and if he does not deliver on the first stage by next May, he will be out of a job. He remains confident that the aim of getting down waiting lists to the level inherited from the Tories over the next eight months will be met, barring accidents this winter.

In the research reported in the current issue of the medical journal *Anesthesiology*, patients were asked to bring with them a CD of their favourite music to enjoy. The amount of drugs they needed during the operation was then compared with another group of patients who had no music. Doctors found a 44 per cent reduction in requirement for an analgesic and a five-fold drop in demand for sedatives.

Just how the music works in reducing the perception of pain is not clear, but one theory is that the stimulus from the music somehow competes for the brain's attention with the pain signals and, for some of the time, wins.



## Musical therapy calms patients

BY ROGER DOBSON

ANESTHETISTS WHO play music to their patients during operations have discovered that the sound substantially reduces the amounts of sedatives and pain-killers needed.

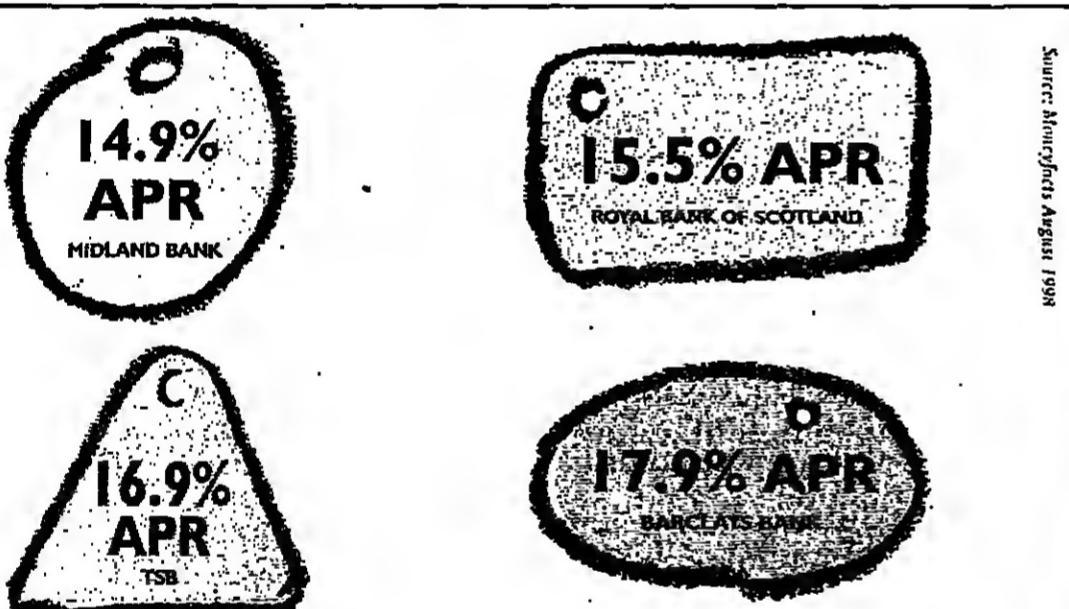
When patients listened to their own choice of music through headphones, the use of pain-killing analgesics was almost halved, and the level of sedation also dropped.

All the patients were operated on under local or regional anaesthetic and were therefore awake during the operation.

The huge increase in hospital day surgery in Britain means that more such operations are being carried out. One of the problems is that conscious patients can become overawed as the surgeons operate and discuss surgical techniques and disease.

"When these patients undergo regional or local anaesthesia, we can block the pain stimulus but we are still left with anxiety associated with being in the operating theatre," says Dr Zeev Kain, professor of anaesthesiology at Yale University. "Music is widely used to help people relax and divert attention from unpleasant things, so we set out to show that music chosen by a patient helps provide a familiar environment and will distract their attention."

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Source: MoneySuperMarket.com

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Opinion

Edinburgh TV Festival: Former au pair describes how people behaving like paparazzi have robbed her of privacy



In court: Louise Woodward with the two hairstyles that, as seen on television, led the public to condemn her

## Woodward speaks out against TV trials

BY PAUL McCANN  
Media Editor

LOUISE WOODWARD spoke out against the use of television cameras in courtrooms yesterday, despite the part they played in starting the campaign that fought for her early release from jail.

The British au pair complained that the televising of her trial last year had given her unwanted celebrity and had led to the trivialisation of her trial for the murder of baby Matthew Eappen.

Speaking at the Edinburgh Television Festival, Ms Woodward said: "People are not able to distinguish between notoriety and celebrity. I never wanted to be in this position. I don't want to be a minor celebrity - I am not famous for anything good and people ask me to sign baseball caps."

"I am trying to be a normal 20-year-old and people won't let me do that."

The former au pair complained that every day she gets questions from the media about where she is going to universi-

ty, when she is getting married or if she plans to have children.

"When I was on holiday, paparazzi-style photographs of me on the beach were taken by members of the public and sold to the press." She added: "I have only ever signed one autograph because the woman wouldn't let me out of the restaurant and I was embarrassed. When I can, I say no. I just hope my face will fade in people's memories".

She said that her notoriety all stemmed from the televising of her trial: "I was never asked if I wanted cameras in the courtroom ... I would have said no. It is hard enough to stand handcuffed in the dock without a camera trying to get a clear shot of my hands".

She said because of the cameras her behaviour in the courtroom, rather than the evidence, became the focus of news reports. Her giggle was given

great significance and because she couldn't get a haircut or use make-up in prison she was dubbed the "Nanny from Hell".

When she changed her hairstyle, she said she was accused of trying to look "sweet and innocent".

But she did not deny that the cameras may have contributed

to her release after her manslaughter conviction, when she was given a sentence already covered by the time she had served.

"I couldn't say what influenced the judge," she said. "I hope he based his decision on law, not on public opinion. Do

we really want the public to be policing the courts? Should we just replace 12 people as a jury with an opinion poll on [the television chat show] with Richard and Judy?"

She added: "Television turns a courtroom into a soap opera, turns it into entertainment, but

a courtroom is a serious place dealing with people's lives."

Ms Woodward was accompanied at the session by her lawyer Barry Scheck, who argued that the televising of her trial had made things more difficult for the defence lawyers.

He claimed that it reduced

the case to a debate about childcare, and the implication was that Louise Woodward had been given too much responsibility and had snapped under the pressure. He said the trial jury was not sequestered, and he assumed they had been watching the television coverage.

## 30 more real life soaps in pipeline

BY PAUL McCANN

ITV IS PLANNING to make another 30 documentary soap operas this year; it was revealed yesterday as a session at the Edinburgh Television Festival cast light on how more and more ordinary people are having their lives changed by television celebrity.

A leading documentary soap maker admitted that directors "cast" their fly-on-the-wall programmes with people who have star quality.

The seminar was attended by Jeremy Spake, the Aeroflot attendant made famous by the BBC's *Airport* series, and Trude Mostue of *The Vets In Practice* series. Delegates heard how these stars of real-life television had gone on to pursue new careers after their brush with fame.

The seminar was also supposed to have heard from Emma Bundy, a croupier girl from the series *Lakesiders*, but she could not attend because she is currently recording a single for EMI Records.

Mr Spake, who has now appeared in two series of *Airport* still works for Aeroflot, but he has become such a hit in the show that the BBC commissioned him to write a book.

Joe Hoolihan, maker of *Airline*, the best-watched series so far, said that the programmes are based more on character than on the situations film crews find: "It is commonly accepted that we use the phrase 'casting'. We are looking for people who have a way of expressing themselves well and explaining things on camera."

The session was attended by Keith Cooper, the former head of press at the Royal Opera House, made famous for his treatment of staff in *The House*.

He left his job earlier this year and blames the programme: "I was known as Vlad the Impaler after the series. The cameras made me look like a villain and in seem without credibility and character. That has remained with me both personally and professionally."

Louise Woodward and her lawyer, Barry Scheck, in Edinburgh yesterday where she said she did not enjoy being a 'celebrity' Jon Savage

## Schizophrenia gene close to discovery, say scientists

BY STEVE CONNOR  
Science Editor

SCIENTISTS ARE close to discovering a gene that significantly increases the risk of a person developing schizophrenia, one of the most common and debilitating mental illnesses.

The results of a 15-year study, involving more than a hundred families and a thousand subjects, has provided researchers with the first definitive evidence that a predisposition to schizophrenia resides on a region of human chromosome 13.

Dr Ann Pulver, an epidemiologist at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, said: "Finding the actual gene for schizophrenia susceptibility will be like finding a particular house in a large city."

"But we've found the city. It's a first step, and an exceedingly important one."

The study, published in this

month's issue of the journal *Nature Genetics*, is the first to provide a genetic "address" for a schizophrenia gene with an internationally accepted degree of statistical reliability.

It has been known for many years that schizophrenia tends to run in families.

Studies of identical twins have shown that if one twin develops the illness, the other has a 46 per cent chance of also becoming a sufferer, which is far higher than the 1 per cent rate for the general population.

"It's not the case that 'you have the gene, you have the disease'. The genetic effect is one of susceptibility to schizophrenia," Dr Pulver said. It is likely that other genes, as well

as the influence of the environment or upbringing, also influence the risk of becoming ill, she said.

The scientists analysed the blood samples of 54 schizophrenia patients and samples from members of their families.

By scanning the DNA of the families, the scientists identified a region of chromosome 13 as being implicated in the disease, which was confirmed by a second study of 51 other families with a history of the illness.

Other studies have revealed weak links between schizophrenia and other human chromosomes but this study is the strongest association yet, with the probability of the connection being due to chance alone put at about 2 in 100,000, Dr Pulver said. Dr Karen Schwartz,

a member of the research team, said that if the gene on chromosome 13 is found it could revolutionise the understanding of schizophrenia because scientists should be able to understand the precise nature of any chemical imbalance in the brain of patients.

"It will help us to get a more fundamental understanding of the illness. Right now, we just don't understand schizophrenia," she said.

Schizophrenia is a serious problem in Britain, with the illness affecting 1 per cent of the population.

"It left untreated, people with schizophrenia experience delusions, hallucinations, incoherent speech and highly disorganized behaviour, which prevents sufferers holding down jobs or looking after themselves.

## Rapist targeting rail travellers

BY JASON BENNETT  
Crime Correspondent

A RAPIST has been targeting women at railway stations as they return from work, police revealed yesterday.

The police have so far linked two sexual assaults, but they are expected to appeal to other victims to come forward at a press conference later today.

The two attacks - one in London, the other in Essex - happened six years apart, but an inquiry, known as Operation Catchment, has established "significant similarities which indicate the same man is responsible", police said.

In the most recent assault in March, a 36-year-old woman on her way home from work was attacked and raped near Bermondsey railway station in south-east London. In the other assault at Brentwood, Essex, in February 1992, a 25-year-old

woman was grabbed as she walked to her car and forced to drive to a dimly-lit area where she was raped.

At the time, that incident was linked to a number of sexual assaults, including the rape a month earlier of a 22-year-old who was attacked at a station near Stevenage, Hertfordshire.

Essex Police said yesterday that they had set up a major investigation with British Transport Police to hunt the attacker.

There has been heightened concern about safety on and around the railways this year following an upsurge in sexual assaults. Two teenagers travelling between London and the South Coast were attacked in separate incidents in January.

Mr O'Connor said: "I always liked the work and my faith in it wavered in the face of all the experts. But I always felt it deserved re-assessment, and now

## Rembrandt 'fake' probably genuine

BY CHRIS PARKIN

A PAINTING branded as bogus and consigned to the basement of Ireland's National Art Gallery more than 25 years ago is set to be proved a genuine Rembrandt after all.

The work, *Head of an Old Man*, has been owned by the Dublin gallery since 1871.

It was thought to be a Rembrandt until Dutch experts declared it was a 19th-century fake with a false signature.

That judgement was queried more recently by Andrew O'Connor, the gallery's senior conservator. And he has now established the painting dates back to about 1650, and is consistent with Rembrandt's style.

Mr O'Connor said: "I always liked the work and my faith in it wavered in the face of all the experts. But I always felt it deserved re-assessment, and now

I have been able to do that.

"Cleaning tests and examination of the original paint pretty well convinced me. I also showed it to the head of the Rembrandt Research Project in Amsterdam, who endorsed my feeling.

"I would be hoping for confirmation within the next year, but these things always take a long time."

Mr O'Connor was reluctant to put a price on the painting, if it is finally declared a Rembrandt. "For us, paintings are not related to commercial value, and this one is certainly not for sale," he said.

The last old master confirmed at the gallery, Caravaggio's *The Taking of Christ*, was valued at \$26 million.

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# Clinton flies off into the unknown

**DEFYING WARNINGS** of chaos in Russia, President Bill Clinton left for his two-day summit in Moscow yesterday, determined to offer support for market-based economic reform and explore the political situation first-hand with his Russian counterpart, Boris Yeltsin.

The visit was briefly in doubt at the end of last week as White House advisers scrambled to divine what was going on in Russia, but it was confirmed late last Friday as soon as Mr Yeltsin had affirmed his intention of staying in office.

Yesterday as the Duma (lower house of parliament) in Moscow refused to nominate Viktor Chernomyrdin as Prime Minister, Mr Clinton held last-minute consultations with his National Security Adviser, Sandy Berger.

The decision to proceed with the visit held firm, with White House advisers unanimous that Mr Clinton's trip could send an important signal on behalf of the West that it would not abandon Russia.

The Moscow summit, to be followed by visits to the north and south of Ireland, was also seen in Washington as affording Mr Clinton a brief respite from the continuing political fallout after his admission of an affair with Monica Lewinsky, the former White House trainee.

The confusion in Moscow, and Mr Yeltsin's physical and political weakness – some commentators believed – could benefit Mr Clinton by comparison, allowing him to appear energetic and authoritative before the Russian leader.

There was scepticism, however, about how far this might enhance Mr Clinton's standing in the longer term.

As the Senate returned from its summer recess yesterday,

BY MARY DEJEVSKY  
in Washington

opinion on Capitol Hill – where Republicans have a majority in both Houses – appeared to be hardening, and not in Mr Clinton's favour.

A small sign of his desperation to "reconnect" with the people, Mr Clinton slotted in yet another last-minute public engagement yesterday only two hours before his departure, a visit to a school.

The chief problem for Mr Clinton is less Republican sentiment, which split between those who take the moral stand that he should resign and those whose greater fear is the head start Al Gore's accession might give him in the next presidential election, than congressional Democrats.

With few exceptions, Democrats have failed to rally to Mr Clinton's support, preferring to wait for the report of the independent prosecutor, Kenneth Starr, before deciding what to do.

Those seeking re-election in November are already facing campaign advertisements from Republican challengers, citing Mr Clinton's defects in the moral and credibility stakes.

Mr Clinton, who is thought to be considering a full-scale charm offensive toward congressional Democrats on his return, apparently made little headway last week when he tried to drum up support by phone from his holiday retreat on Martha's Vineyard.

Any progress Mr Clinton may have made in reuniting his family also seemed limited. When the Clintons returned from holiday on Sunday, they emerged from the helicopter in the same formation as they had left – Chelsea between her parents and Mr Clinton leading the dog.



Welcoming posters for Bill Clinton are mounted on telegraph poles along the main street at the entrance to Ballybunion, Co Kerry, Ireland, on Saturday. The President is expected to play a round of golf at the village's course during his visit to the country later in the week.

AP Photo/Don MacMonagle

## Doubts grow over Sudan missile raid

BY RUPERT CORNWELL

THE UNITED STATES is under mounting pressure to produce fuller evidence to support its claim that the factory it bombed in Khartoum was in fact involved in manufacturing chemical weapons, rather than medicines and drugs desperately needed by one of the poorest countries on earth.

In the days since cruise missiles devastated El Shifa Pharmaceutical Industries Co factory in the north-east of the Sudanese capital on 20 August, international doubts have only grown about the justification for the raid.

Even if they are true, however, the conclusions of Werner Daum, the ambassador, would merely corroborate earlier statements by Westerners familiar with the plant, almost

all of them profoundly sceptical of Washington's claims that it was helping make deadly agents like VX gas.

Thus far, the crux of the public case from the US is a soil sample from just outside the factory, which Washington insists contains traces of Emptta, a precursor chemical for VX. This would have ultimately found its way into the hands of Osama bin Laden, the alleged terrorist mastermind who plotted the 7 August attacks on the US embassies in Nairobi and Dar es Salaam, and is said to have financed the Sudan plant.

But even some American experts now say tests establishing the presence of Emptta are inherently unreliable, and

that more than one sample should have been analysed. And US officials are now quoted as saying it is not clear whether Emptta was produced at the factory.

On the other hand, for Sudan, a government accused of sponsoring international terrorism and embroiled in a cruel civil war in the country's south, the affair has offered a rare chance of attracting foreign sympathy – and not surprisingly it is seizing it to the utmost.

At the weekend, Khartoum repeated its demand that a United Nations mission, or "neutral" American figures such as Jesse Jackson or the former president Jimmy Carter, inspect the site. "It's not

difficult to investigate," trumpeted the Sudanese Foreign Minister, Mustafa Osman Ismail, on his way to yesterday's summit in Durban of the Non-Aligned Movement, which was expected to condemn the US reprisals. "The factory is there; it has been closed from the day it was bombed."

Washington is thus being pushed towards an awkward choice – either to make public more evidence backing up its claims, or to permit an outside investigation that seems most unlikely to do so. The current tactic of doing nothing risks only inflaming feelings in the Arab world and heightening suspicions that the raids were a crude attempt to divert at-

tention from the Monica Lewinsky affair.

US officials, therefore, have been trying to square the circle, reiterating that they have "solid" evidence, but hinting that to divulge it would tip off terrorists to some of the methods it used to track them. If so, then the dilemma is similar to that over the Rosenbergs, executed 45 years ago amid bitter controversy on charge of passing atomic secrets to Moscow.

In fact, the evidence that nailed them came when US cryptologists decoded top-secret traffic from the Soviet UN mission in New York. But to have produced transcripts would have revealed to Moscow that its cipher had been broken.

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# Flooding awakens Chinese protest

PEKING'S ENVIRONMENTAL awakening may seem rather late in the day as a Yangtze basin farmer whose home has yet again been washed away by annual floods. But China's government is finally admitting that decades of ecological mismanagement has played a large part in the annual flood disasters. It is the first indication that some good may come from this summer's inundation, a complete logging ban will go into effect today in Sichuan province in the upper reaches of the Yangtze, one of the main contributory factors to flooding.

All Sichuan's timber markets are supposed to close from today and about 45,000 loggers will lose their jobs, in theory being redeployed to plant new saplings. In fact, many of them have not had much work to do recently. According to Sichuan officials, half the province's main timber companies had already run out of trees to cut down by the end of last year. Tree cover in the upper reaches of the Yangtze was once as high as 85 per cent, but by 1986 had fallen to 10 per cent. In the 53 counties in the middle of Sichuan where several Yangtze tributaries run, the cover has mostly been reduced to below 3 per cent, according to figures published in China.

Deforestation has a direct impact on flooding because, devoid of trees to soak up the water, loose soil is washed away by rainwater into rivers and reservoirs. These become clogged, and their water storage capacity reduced, while the level of the riverbed itself gradually rises. The situation is exacerbated by the draining of lakes, and encroachment on lakes in the middle reaches of the Yangtze to create agricultural land. In cen-

BY TERESA POOLE  
in Peking

tral Hubei province, the number of lakes fell from 1,066 in the 1950s to 325 today, according to Chinese figures. This removes nature's ability to absorb flood waters.

Yet there are more hopeful signs that this year's floods have united the environmentally concerned from across the political spectrum. The environment is one issue on which China's fledgling non-government organisations, such as Friends of Nature, have managed to mobilise, and their lobbying power is probably strengthened by the floods.

A meeting at the end of last month by the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress heard forthright criticism of environmental neglect.

A committee member, Luo Dian, said the floods "were caused by widespread deforestation, resulting in serious soil erosion, and inadequate water conservancy projects".

Yao Zhengyan, a former vice-minister for water resources,



Angolan soldiers escorting a prisoner at Matadi airport. Matadi has been retaken by Congolese forces with Angolan help

Reuters

## Congo rebels prepare for long haul in war to topple Kabila

FROM THE capital, Kinshasa, government victory may seem at hand. But from rebel-held eastern Congo, insurgents plotting their next move say time is on their side.

"The war is going on," said Ernest Wamba dia Wamba, a rebel leader yesterday.

Mr Wamba insisted the government forces would have been routed if it were not for the Angolans and Zimbabweans sent in to fight alongside those of President Laurent Kabila.

"But they cannot stay long. And we're going to continue fighting no matter what," he said.

On Sunday, the rebels suffered a major defeat in the month-old campaign to topple

BY HRVOJE HRANJSKI

Mr Kabila when they pulled out of Matadi, 350 kilometres southwest of Kinshasa - the only remaining air base in western Congo under their control.

Mr Wamba said the rebel force in western Congo - believed to number between 6,000 and 9,000 troops - had to withdraw to avoid being cut in half by Angolan troops.

The result will be a change in tactics: the rebels will split into smaller, mobile groups ready to strike Kinshasa at times, infiltrate the city and lie low until the departure of Mr Kabila's allies, he said.

"It's a matter of what kind of

war," said the former Harvard political economy lecturer. "It is my understanding that now, we are conducting the guerrilla-type war.

"Nobody can rule effectively only with foreign support," he said. "Zimbabwe cannot stay for a long time. Angola may not stay for longer either. They have too many fronts open against them: they have to be in Congo-Brazzaville, they have to deal with (separatists) in Cabinda; they have to deal with Congo-Kinshasa, and they are only 11 million people."

Since the rebels - a coalition of ethnic Tutsis, exiled politicians and disenchanted members of Mr Kabila's army -

look up arms, they have seized eastern Congo and closed in on Kinshasa from the Atlantic.

But the intervention of Angola and Zimbabwe appeared to have saved Mr Kabila - at least for now. The result could be a long and exhausting war.

"We are trying to tell our people that this may not be a few weeks' affair. It could be months, it could be years. The more people get that sense that this is a worthwhile struggle, the people will continue struggling," he said.

The rebels still control a string of towns in eastern Congo, including the third-largest city, Kisangani, from where supplies can be ferried

on the Congo River to rebels around Kinshasa.

The rebels accuse Mr Kabila of power-grabbing and nepotism. "Fundamentally, this is a problem of how power is being misused," Mr Wamba said. "We need responsible leadership if we want to have stability in Congo and regionally."

Mr Kabila accuses Rwanda and Uganda of sponsoring the rebellion and invading the country.

But the rebel commander Jean-Pierre Ondekane, said yesterday that the countries backing the rebels had yet to intervene in the war. He warned that they would if the war continued.

BY ZOHRA BENSENFRA  
in Algiers

AT LEAST 10 people were killed in Algiers yesterday when a home-made bomb exploded at an open-air market in the city centre.

A doctor and relief worker at the scene said the number of casualties was climbing. "So far we have counted 19 dead and 47 injured. But many of the wounded are in critical condition and some might not survive," the doctor said.

A worker at a television repair shop in the market said: "One of the vendors discovered the bomb in a bag, he tried to move it away with his feet, but it exploded. Most of the dead are vendors, like the poor man or passers-by."

There was no immediate word on who might be responsible for the attack, but it follows a series of blasts blamed by the authorities on Muslim rebels in which dozens have been killed. The Arabic daily *El Khobar* said one person was killed and two hurt when a bomb exploded on Sunday in Sidi Ali Shrif, 300 miles west of Algiers. The newspaper also reported that security forces shot dead two Islamists in Constantine, 220 miles east of the capital.

On Saturday, police in Hachad hamlet, about 40 miles south-west of Algiers, defused two bombs near where mourners had been gathering for the funeral of five civilians killed by presumed Muslim rebels a day earlier. Security sources said Islamist rebels cut the throats of 10 people in nearby Ain Defla on Saturday in a new wave of violence to hit the province.

On 20 August, at least 14 people were killed and 46 wounded by a bomb at an open-air market in a neighbouring village, and a week earlier seven people, including six children, were killed in a bomb attack on a passenger train.

Western estimates put the death toll at 65,000 from continuing violence since the government cancelled an election in 1992, which the Islamists were poised to win.



Eurocrat

## How Burma's resistance cheated the secret police

BY STEPHEN VINES  
in Rangoon

RUNNING OR, more accurately, fleeing, down a road leading off an intersection close to Rangoon University, I wondered, for a moment, just a moment, what would happen if I stopped and waited to see what the haton-wielding riot police would do to a foreigner who was clearly not part of the protest they were breaking up.

Looks of genuine terror on the faces of those around me quickly pushed this idea out of my mind. The Burmese military and police are not known for their subtlety.

I had been observing a student demonstration, the first in over two years. It was a small affair organised in great secrecy. I knew of its existence only because I happened to be in the area and a woman in a car called out that students were gathering near by.

Anyone contemplating open protest in Burma faces considerable risks. Even the woman in the car had been spied by the many informers out on the streets, could have been thrown into jail for talking to me.

Shortly after this demonstration Aung San Suu Kyi, the leader of the National League for Democracy (NLD) opposition movement, told me: "If you do something that you're not frightened by I'm not sure it means that much but if you take part in a protest when you're frightened, that really is something."

"Fear and courage walk side by side," she added. "What we have to overcome is the fear." The NLD won an overwhelming parliamentary victory in 1990 but was not allowed to take its seats.

Only a fool would not sense the fear in Burma today. Yet there certainly is courage. Every single person at this demonstration faced the prospect of jail in horrendous



conditions for many years. As I ran down the road three students surrounded me and hustled me into an alley, fearing that I was too conspicuous. I urged them to leave me but they insisted that I take shelter in a nearby house where I was admitted without question.

By the time I left the house, ploughing into darkened alleys, we had a tail. The students guiding me out still refused to leave me alone. The military intelligence officer trailing us made little attempt to conceal his presence and hung around until I disappeared in a taxi. The students left in another direction. I very much hope they are all right.

When I went to interview Ms Suu Kyi, I managed to attract even more attention. Not so long ago it was possible to go to her house in University Avenue where a cluster of goons surrounded the entrance, taking pictures of everyone going in and out. Now

the part of the street where she lives is sealed off to foreigners, except diplomats. Her phone has been disconnected. To meet her, elaborate preparations have to be made through intermediaries.

It was finally decided to arrange a meeting at the house of Bochum Aung, one of the country's national heroes, a comrade-in-arms of Ms Suu Kyi's father, Aung San. The central player in Burma's struggle for independence.

Sending out stories and film involves elaborate circumnavigation because all phone lines are tapped, all fax machines have to be registered and their output is carefully monitored. The new Burmese Internet service is also subject to considerable surveillance.

Yet news seeps out, foreign radio stations are avidly listened to, word of mouth on the streets conveys information about protest activity.

The regime cannot seal every crack in the information network, even though it is doing its very best.

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DRY IN 150

# Paris stars as film makers flock to France

THE CITY of light has been transformed this summer into the city of "lights, cameras, action". On each day of last month, more than 15 different movies - French cinema and TV movies, German movies, American movies - were being shot in various parts of Paris.

Scenes for 30 films - a record - have been shot in location in the French capital since the beginning of the year. More production crews, including one headed by Roman Polanski, are moving in this autumn.

"August is the ideal time. The Parisians are away," said Antonin Desparieu (no relation to the actor), assistant producer of *The Volcano*, a German film set in 1930s Paris.

In truth, despite the traditional absence of the city's population, cinematic over-crowding has been a problem this summer.

The competing demands of the World Cup in June and July compressed all the filming into a shorter period. The crew of one movie being made close to the Eiffel Tower complained last week of background noise from what sounded like an African wedding. It turned out to be another film, being shot a couple of hundred yards away. There have also been complaints from the remaining residents, especially those in the cliché locations: the Ile Saint-Louis and Saint-Germain des Prés.

The police and city authorities now try to steer film companies to other areas. Some movie-makers, in any case, wish to portray a seedier side of the world's most beautiful city.

Three of the movies now in production are shot on unlovely locations close to the Boulevard Périphérique. Another is set in and around La Santé

BY JOHN LICHFIELD  
in Paris

prison. The town hall was moved to complain that some film-makers insist on presenting the city "of passion and poetry" from "a dust-bin level". Notwithstanding,

classics of the genre, such as *The French Connection* and *Bullitt*.

Demand for movie-making locations in Paris - classical and unconventional - is now so great that the town hall is working on plans to set up a permanent Parisian film liaison office, modelled on the one in New York.

At any one time, the city authorities and police have more than 1,000 requests pending to film in the city, many of which come to nothing. The number of demands is running at a record level.

Why the abrupt rise in cinematic interest in the French capital? The weakness of the franc in the past 18 months has made it an affordable location once again for foreign film production companies. The French cinema, partly through public funding, partly through demand from French cable and terrestrial television channels, is itself booming.

"Paris has always been one of the great stars of the cinema," said Brigitte Brauner, the film liaison officer at the town hall.

"There's not a movie camera available anywhere in Paris. They're all rented," said Patrick Lancelot, director of *Ecce Homo*, a movie starring Catherine Deneuve.

Filming in Paris can have its awkward moments. A Metro station was badly scorched (damage £50,000) during the making of one film last year. De Niro was arrested briefly by the French vice squad while on location in Paris in the spring. He was taken for questioning, as a witness, in the investigation of a high-class call girl ring with tentacles in the world of show-business, politics and Middle East arms dealing.

Now that would be a good plot for a movie ...



Roman Polanski (above) and Robert De Niro are among the stars working in Paris this year



spectacular of the movies made in Paris this year is likely to be *Roman*, an American thriller, directed by John Frankenheimer and starring Robert De Niro. The scenes of car chases and mayhem in the centre of Paris, filmed in 23 days spread over three months, are said to equal the

now that would be a good plot for a movie ...



Eighty tons of garbage is dumped in the streets of Douai in northern France after collection contractors demonstrated their anger over the planned closure of their disposal site in Sainte Marie Kerque. Reuters

## 'Super Eurocrats' to give EU a bigger world role

PLANS FOR two new super-Eurocrats, who would become powerful voices for Europe on foreign and economic affairs, are being discussed in Brussels.

The move would be part of a thorough shake-up of the European Commission, aimed at giving the European Union a bigger role on the world stage.

BY STEPHEN CASTLE  
in Brussels

As such, it is likely to be seen by several larger nations, including Britain, as an attempt to turn the tide back towards greater central control from Brussels, of the type pioneered by Jacques Delors.

The move would also pre-

cipitate a new bout of infighting among the 15 member states over control of the new positions.

The plans, which are gaining enthusiastic backing from the smaller EU states, would merge the four Commission portfolios which deal with external relations, and combine the responsibilities of the two main economic commissioners.

The incumbents of both new

posts would be Vice-Presidents of the Commission, with more resources and a bigger staff. They would be expected to play a leading role on the international stage.

The proposals would give a boost to long-standing backers of a common European foreign and security policy.

Final decisions on the shape of the new Commission will be

taken next year at the end of Germany's EU presidency, but drafts are already being circulated in Brussels.

The creation of an external affairs supremo coincides with another initiative to appoint a new High Representative for common foreign and security policy.

The appointee is likely to be either a senior official or an experienced national politician, such as Felipe Gonzalez, the former prime minister of Spain, who at one time was the favourite to be the next President of the Commission.

Proponents of the plans say that the two external affairs roles together would form two-thirds of a new troika - the third member being the foreign minister of the nation holding the EU presidency.

However, Commission sources concede that beefing up institutional structures can only play a limited role in forging a more active European foreign policy. Member states have to be willing to back their intentions with actions, over such issues as the violence in Serbia's Kosovo province, for example.

Holiday party animals roar on and on

BY LIZ NASH  
in Madrid  
and DARIUS SANAI

MICHAEL BIRKETT, our vice-consul in Ibiza, may have quit his job yesterday in protest at the rowdy behaviour of British tourists, but all across the Mediterranean the partying will go on - and, if the latest trends are to be believed, things are getting even rowdier.

Ibiza, Tenerife and Majorca in Spain, and the Mediterranean islands of Corfu, Rhodes, Ios, Crete, and Cyprus are among the focus points for the mass downloading of Britons every summer.

Mr Birkett, formerly the chief accountant at the British embassy in Madrid, chose the wrong location if he wanted a quiet life in the sun. Ibiza has been one of the hubs of Euro-pean rave culture for a decade.

The resort of San Antonio, which has in recent years gained notoriety as the island's Mecca for designer-drug dealing and drunken live-sex shows, was described by one British official yesterday as "the Wild West".

Rapidly catching up on Ibiza is Playa de Las Americas in southern Tenerife. Some 150 Britons have been arrested so far this year in Tenerife, 98 per cent in connection with violent offences, compared with 140 last year. Deaths in Tenerife reached a record of 107, including violent murders, suicides and accidental drunken plunges from the balconies of high-rise hotels.

Ibiza saw 60 British deaths last year, and 147 arrests, although countless incidents of drunkenness and misbehaviour do not remain on the official records.

Magaluf Majorca is a hectic focus of drunkenness and drug-use among thousands of 18 to 30-year-old revellers.

But Gary Walters, who works at a striptease bar in Kavos on Corfu, said: "The vast majority of them come here to have a rave, get wasted and shake off their inhibitions. There may be a couple of scuffles and that, but it's just like back home."

Mr Birkett was constantly dealing with court cases of British clubbers. A Spanish observer in Ibiza said: "I think things just got out of hand and he couldn't take any more." Officials denied that he was about to be fired for being unable to cope with the workload. It is understood that Mr Birkett, who has a Spanish wife, plans to stay and open a restaurant.

## Patagonian king claims deserted Channel isle

ALERT THE fleet. Stir up the tabloid press. One of our islands is missing.

At dawn on Sunday "a light naval division" of the Kingdom of Patagonia (a yacht containing an undisclosed number of French adventurers and romantics) landed on the Minquiers islands south of Jersey.

The invaders hauled down the Union flag and replaced it with the blue, white and green standard of the spoof (but not entirely spoof) Kingdom of Patagonia, re-establishing a claim first made in 1984.

The capture was revealed in a faxed communiqué to Reuters news agency in Paris yesterday. The statement claimed the uninhabited rocks - officially British since 1953 - on behalf of the "government of His Majesty Orelle-Antoine I, King of Patagonia".

King Orelle-Antoine was a French explorer and idealist who was proclaimed King of Patagonia, at the tip of South America, by the native population for a few weeks in 1869, until the Chileans saw him off. He has been dead for 120 years.

The instigator of the weekend's action is the self-proclaimed consul general of the Kingdom of Patagonia, who claims about a thousand adherents. His name is Jean Raspail. He is a 73-year-old French royalist, travel-writer, philosopher and practical joker.

Mr Raspail is, in almost all respects, a serious person. He is a chevalier of the Légion d'honneur; the highest French civilian honour. He has a four-

inch entry in the French edition of *Who's Who*.

Speaking on the phone yesterday from his home in Neuilly-sur-Seine, west of Paris, he said: "This is a game but it is a game played seriously in the way that children's games are played seriously. We will present the British flag we took from the islands to the British ambassador in Paris in due course."

By claiming the Minquiers rocks, half-way between Jersey and the Breton coast, Mr Raspail and his followers wish to make two points. They wish to challenge the "unacceptable and prolonged" British occupation of the Falkland Islands (properly part of Patagonia), they claim.

And they wish to keep alive the French claim to the sovereignty and rich fisheries of the Minquiers archipelago, a source of contention between the two countries for 200 years, they claim.

On Sunday, the French/Patagonian claimants placed another sign above the first, reading in French: "This building is the northermost building in the Kingdom of Patagonia".

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BANCLAYS	£4,000	17.5%	£98.67	£5,751.20
	£8,000	15.9%	£238.00	£14,768.00
	£16,000	14.9%	£496.64	£29,999.60
LLOYDS	£4,000	16.0%	£227.75	£13,577.00
	£8,000	15.5%	£454.75	£21,885.00
	£16,000	14.5%	£955.57	£55,734.20
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ANNE MC ELVOY

If Chernomyrdin is not the best thing that could happen to Russia, he is far from being the worst'

— THE TUESDAY REVIEW, PAGE 5

Business & City Editor, Jeremy Warner  
News desk: 0171-293 2636 Fax: 0171-293 2098  
E-mail: IndyBusiness@independent.co.uk

THE INDEPENDENT  
Tuesday 1 September 1998

# BUSINESS

Central ba

## BRIEFING

### The Pharmacy backs into AIM

THE PHARMACY, the London bar and restaurant part-owned by Manchester United director Michael Edelson and public relations entrepreneur Matthew Freud, will be valued at up to £7.2m under terms for a reverse takeover announced yesterday.

The group is coming to the Alternative Investment Market via a reverse take-over of Hartford Group, a shell company. Hartford is paying an initial £3.8m for Bluebridge, the company that includes The Pharmacy, plus an additional payment of up to £3.6m depending on performance.

The deal is being funded by the issue of 644.6 million new shares.

Hartford shares have been suspended since January, pending further details on the deal. Hartford's existing leisurewear businesses will be sold, and Bluebridge then plans to expand the Pharmacy into a national business.

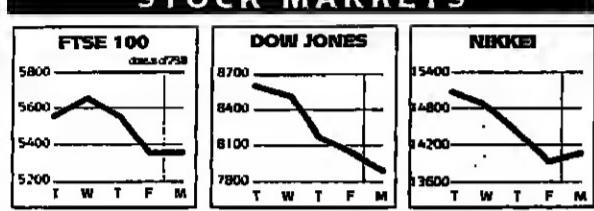
### Mutuals' bull market stumbles

AMERICA'S MUTUAL FUND industry, for so long the humdrum engine of the bull market on Wall Street, is suddenly starting to sputter.

Final figures for August may show a net outflow of money from the equity funds, the first negative month since September 1990, nearly eight years ago.

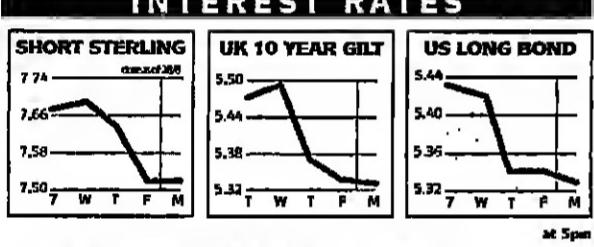
*News Analysis, page 13*

### STOCK MARKETS



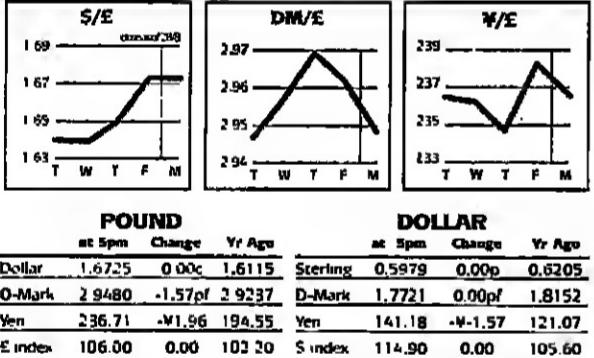
Indices	Close	Change	Chg %	52 wk high	52 wk low
FTSE 100	5249.40	0.00	0.00	6183.70	4382.80
FTSE 250	6796.20	0.00	0.00	5970.90	4428.30
FTSE 250	2515.10	0.00	0.00	2869.10	2141.80
FTSE All Share	3440.84	0.00	0.00	3696.52	2106.59
FTSE SmallCap	2126.10	0.00	0.00	2782.80	2102.20
FTSE Eselect	1187.10	0.00	0.00	1517.10	1187.10
FTSE AIM	898.60	0.00	0.00	1146.90	898.60
FTSE ERBLOC 100	909.44	0.00	0.00	1109.44	809.44
Dow Jones	7940.71	-102.21	-1.37	9367.84	6971.32
Nikkei	14107.89	-192.26	-1.38	18775.08	13792.76
Hong Kong	7275.04	-554.70	-7.09	15242.65	6544.79
Dax	4833.89	-159.65	-3.20	6217.83	3487.24

### INTEREST RATES



Index	3 months	Yr chg	1 Year	Yr chg	10 Year	Yr chg	Long bond	Yr chg
UK	7.63	0.31	7.38	-0.25	5.33	-1.74	5.10	-1.93
US	5.63	-0.09	5.53	-0.50	5.05	-1.23	5.33	-1.23
Japan	0.63	0.06	0.64	-0.02	1.30	-0.92	1.82	-0.98
Germany	3.48	0.17	3.64	-0.01	4.22	-1.47	5.03	-1.37

### CURRENCIES



### OTHER INDICATORS

Close	Chg	Yr Ago	Index	Chg	Yr Ago	Next Rpt	
Brent Oil (\$)	12.20	0.00	18.25	GDP	115.40	2.60	112.48
Gold (\$)	.76	0.5	1.70	RM	163.00	3.50	157.49
Silver (\$)	4.79	0.00	4.72	Base Rate	7.50	7.00	

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Belgium (francs)	58.98	New Zealand (\$)	3.2380
Canada (\$)	2.5213	Norway (krone)	12.83
Cyprus (pounds)	0.8358	Portugal (escudos)	291.29
Denmark (korone)	10.95	Saudi Arabia (rials)	6.0421
Finland (markka)	8.7925	Singapore (\$)	2.8065
France (francs)	9.5832	Spain (pesetas)	242.00
Germany (marks)	2.8666	South Africa (rand)	10.33
Greece (drachma)	492.16	Sweden (korone)	13.17
Hong Kong (\$)	12.35	Switzerland (francs)	2.3595
Ireland (pounds)	1.1359	Y/E	239
Indian (rupees)	64.52		
Israel (shekels)	5.8972		
Italy (lira)	2835		
Japan (yen)	231.29		
Malaysia (ringgit)	6.6370		
Malta (lira)	0.6213		

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# Hong Kong fall sets scene for turmoil in markets

LONDON MARKETS are braced for further turbulence today after a sharp fall in the Hang Seng index and further declines on Wall Street as dealers continued to fret about the crisis in Russia.

The Duma's decision to reject Victor Chernomyrdin as prime minister came after the close of European markets, but analysts said the move would increase fears of a worsening situation in Russia.

As London traders return to their desks today after the August bank holiday, they will face markets still jittery after further volatile sessions yesterday.

Hong Kong stocks were hit with the Hang Seng losing almost 6 per cent of its value in the first seven minutes of trading yesterday following a government retreat from its massive buying campaign last Friday.

The Hang Seng eventually closed 7 per cent lower, or 544

points down at 7,275.04. In Frankfurt, the Xetra DAX fell 114.52 points, or 2.32 per cent, to close at 4,811.28. Some dealers are forecasting a further 300 point fall.

In France the CAC-40 fell 57.12 points, or 1.54 per cent to 3,651.85 on thin volume.

In Russia, where the rouble

crisis sparked the global downturn, the RTS-Interfax index dipped 1.74 per cent on minimal volume.

In Brazil, where share prices fell by 40 per cent in August, a further two per cent fall was registered when Euro markets closed.

Markets had drawn comfort early on from a 1.38 per cent rally in Tokyo stocks. The Nikkei closed 192.8 points higher

at 14,107 though elsewhere in Asia most share markets took a tumble.

Wall Street opened

# Central bank doves in the ascendancy

ONE OF the reasons why monetary policy is superior to fiscal policy as a mechanism for the short term management of the economy is that interest rates are much more able to respond to changing circumstances than tax rates and government spending plans. In recent months circumstances have been changing very rapidly, both in the UK and in the rest of the world, and the case for higher interest rates anywhere in the world has evaporated. The question on the table today is whether the major central banks should now be cutting rates.

**Let us start with the UK.** How does the debate on the conduct of monetary policy since the election now look? As usual, it is only possible to make definitive judgments on these matters several years after the event, so the following assessment is still very tentative. In my view, there remains a good case for arguing that base rates should have been increased more rapidly in 1997 in order to hit the consumer earlier and to persuade the foreign exchange markets that rates had well peaked before the start of 1998.

However, given that this was not achieved last year, it is no longer clear to me that the hawks on the MPC were right to argue for higher rates in the first half of this year. Without any doubt, Eddie George and DeAnne Julius, who were reluctant to raise rates from February onwards, have had their case strengthened by recent events.



GAVYN  
DAVIES

**Business surveys suggest the economy may be heading for a harder landing than predicted**

When I last wrote about UK monetary policy a couple of months ago, I said that the case for higher base rates depended on an assessment of the relative strength of two conflicting forces.

First, the increase in average earnings suggested that unemployment had fallen below its equilibrium rate, and that this implied that output was running as much as 2 per cent above its normal trend. Output would need to be brought back down to its trend level if inflation were to be controlled, and there was no case for delaying this correction.

Second, however, there was the question of whether output was al-

ready embarked on the necessary decline in response to earlier increases in base rates and the strength of the pound.

My conclusion was that output was indeed falling rapidly enough to control inflation on existing policy, so that further base rate increases were not needed. In August, the MPC concurred with this assessment.

Since then, new evidence has emerged on both the key questions outlined above. On the first, latest average earnings figures have been less worrying, and Robin Morris has presented evidence to suggest that much of the earlier rise in earnings was due to bonus payments. If he is right, then it is possible that earnings might decline more rapidly than normal as the economy slows.

Furthermore, the government economists are apparently preparing to reduce their previous estimates of GDP growth during the recent upswing by a cumulative 1.2 per cent. This would call into question whether output is as far above trend as had seemed likely on previous figures.

Meanwhile, on the second question, business surveys have continued to be very bleak indeed, suggesting that the economy may already be embarking on a harder landing than has been built into consensus projections. The CBI, which had previously remained quite sanguine in the face of plumb-

meting confidence readings in its own survey, is now talking of three successive quarters of zero growth in the economy, which would be more than enough to achieve the necessary correction in output.

Consequently, both of the key forces have moved in a direction which is dovish for UK interest rates. The question of rate cuts will soon be on the agenda, and how soon we will see them announced depends largely on the path for sterling. This in turn hinges to an important extent on what happens to interest rates in the rest of the world.

For most of this year, it seemed very obvious that the relative balance of domestic monetary conditions in the major economies needed to be altered. Given the sharp tightening in labour market conditions in the US, the Federal Reserve was seeking an early opportunity to raise the Fed Funds rate. Equally obviously, Japan and the rest of Asia were desperately seeking ways of easing domestic monetary conditions, but were being thwarted by the chronic weakness of Asian exchange rates.

While it was very apparent that this change in relative monetary conditions was desirable, it was not so clear whether the overall stance of monetary policy in the OECD as a whole needed to be tightened or eased.

This has now been clarified – it needs to be eased. This is because

THE THREAT TO GROWTH				
OECD GDP GROWTH (ex.Korea)				
	1997	1998	1999	2000
With no Shocks	3.0	2.5	2.7	3.3
With Asia I (Main Case)	2.8	2.3	2.2	2.5
With Asia I and Asia II	2.8	2.2	2.0	2.0
With Asia I, II and Latin American Shocks	2.8	2.1	1.8	1.7
With Asia I, II and Equity Shocks	2.8	1.9	1.0	1.7

Source: Goldman Sachs  
next year. The Asian shock that has already happened ("Asia I") is likely to reduce this to 2.2 per cent. If there were further disorderly devaluations in Asia and Latin America, this would reduce the OECD growth rate to only 1.8 per cent. And if this were enough to trigger a sustained 30 per cent correction in global stockmarkets (compared with the July peak), the global growth rate would drop to only 1.0 per cent next year. This would be the third worst out-turn in any calendar year since the war, and suddenly talk of outright price deflation in the Western economies would no longer look so fanciful.

Fortunately, none of this has happened yet, and all of it is amenable to correction by timely action from the central banks. They essentially have two options. One is to wait and see whether financial market turbulence will quieten down of its own accord, and only to reduce interest rates if there are further major accidents, such as a devaluation in China, Hong Kong or Brazil. The other is to seek to head off the risk of such accidents by easing monetary policy in the US and Europe in a pre-emptive fashion, essentially seeking to give currency and equity markets a clear signal to calm down.

Central bankers are a cautious breed but even they might soon begin to think that just such a pre-emptive easing might be a prudent stitch in time.

**News Analysis:** Until July, the US funds were attracting \$20bn a month

## Wanted: good news to save mutuals' eight-year bull run



An affectionate pat on the nose for a bull statue near Wall Street. Investors see warning signs of a mutual funds sell-off Adam Nadel/AP

AMERICA'S mutual fund industry, for so long the burning engine of the bull market on Wall Street, is suddenly starting to splutter. Indeed, when all the sums are done, August may show a net outflow of money from the equity funds. That would be first negative

BY DAVID USBORNE  
in New York

month since September 1990, nearly eight years ago.

No wonder managers of the funds, many of whom have never had to deal with a market that is going south, are having kittens. And, for now, there is little they can do except watch and pray that the investors who have kept them flying for so many years ignore the gloom and come back to the party.

"It's hand-holding time right now," one leading manager on Wall Street signed yesterday.

"Our greatest fear is that this goes on long enough that the public will start to go sour on us. Then, who knows what will happen."

How individual investors in America react to the current turmoil is critical to what happens next. No less than 59 per cent of all stocks in the United States is held by households, and much of that investment is directed through the mutual funds. Since 1991, the funds have taken in a fatter-busting \$1 trillion. Even until July this year, they were attracting \$20bn or more in fresh cash every month.

The good news is that so far, there is little evidence of panic. Either because they are not ready to believe that the bull market is really over or because they early on that they were ready to ride out the bad times

with the good, large numbers of investors are so far resisting the urge to sell outright.

The evidence that sentiment is worsening, however, is inescapable. With the Dow Jones industrial index down nearly 14 per cent since its 17 July peak, the impulse to get out, by shifting, for example, to fixed-income securities or to money-market funds, can only get stronger. American investors have not witnessed a slide in stock values of this magnitude since the 21 per cent drop suffered during the 1990 Gulf War.

And crucially, while some may for now be holding on to their stocks, few seem moved to see a buying opportunity in the recent slide. Only if investors decide to buy on the dips can there be any realistic chance that the swoon in the Dow will turn out to be a correction instead of the start of a real bear market.

Unless the Dow picks itself up quickly, there is a clear risk that the pace of redemptions will begin to snowball, espe-

cially as investors, who have become accustomed to gains of 20 per cent a year, see how far back some of their favourite funds have dropped. As of the end of last week, at least four of the largest US fund companies were confirming net withdrawals by investors, including Boston-based Fidelity.

Lipper Analytical, which tracks fund performances, notes that more than a third of its fund categories are now off by more than 10 per cent from their highs. That alone, says Michael Lipper, is an indication that "we have elements of a bear market."

Fund managers are attempting to reassure themselves, and their clients, with the mostly good news offered by America's domestic economy.

They point out that more than 70 per cent of economic activity in the US derives from households, where, for now at least,

the picture remains overwhelmingly positive. Consumer confidence is still high, in spite of the current market crisis.

The employment statistics are stellar – just about anyone who wants a job in America has one

– and income levels are at historic highs. Nor, with inflation still at bay, is there any obvious pressure on the Federal Reserve to raise interest rates.

Perhaps the most upbeat of voices in Wall Street is that of Abby Cohen, investment strategist for Goldman Sachs. She believes it cannot be long before investors begin to buy up some of the drooping stocks, notably in the financial and technology sectors. "If investors are inclined to raise little cash, they look to sell the stocks that have gone up a lot," she commented. "But we think that the change in fundamentals has been dramatically overstated."

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Abby Cohen: An upbeat voice on Wall Street

cially as investors, who have become accustomed to gains of 20 per cent a year, see how far back some of their favourite funds have dropped. As of the end of last week, at least four of the largest US fund companies were confirming net withdrawals by investors, including Boston-based Fidelity.

Lipper Analytical, which

## Catalogue sales boom for high street giants

BRITAIN'S MAIL ORDER market is on the brink of a substantial surge in growth as retailers, such as Marks & Spencer and Arcadia, enter the market, according to a fresh report published today.

The report, from Verdict, the leading retail consultancy, says that the traditional mail order houses such as Littlewoods and Great Universal Stores have been spurred on by these new entrants to offer more innovative direct marketing catalogues.

New catalogues such as La Redoute, Select and The Book are targeting people outside the

traditional agency market, and can compete directly with the high street, providing a stimulus for strong growth.

Verdict says more providers are likely to follow the example of Next, which offers home shopping under the same brand name as its high street outlets.

Firms using the traditional agency route, which still makes up just over half of all catalogue sales, are taking an ever-decreasing share of the market.

"Home shopping has for too long failed to realise its potential as a convenient form of shopping. The key was the

weak brand identity of the traditional mail order houses and the downmarket associations. The entry of high street retail brands will widen the reach of home shopping and make it more acceptable," Verdict said.

The UK home shopping market grew by 7.9 per cent last year to £2.2bn, largely as a result of the entry of companies such as M&S and Arcadia.

Direct catalogues were the main driver, showing 15 per cent growth. GUS remains the market leader with a 24 per cent share, followed by Littlewoods and Grattan.

## NEW INVESTMENT RATES

Effective from 1 September 1998

ANNUAL RATES				
Scarborough 120 & 120 By Post	7.45	5.96		
£50,000 - £250,000	7.35	5.88		
£25,000 - £49,999.99	7.25	5.80		
£10,000 - £24,999.99	7.15	5.72		
£5,000 - £9,999.99				
Scarborough 30 & 30 By Post*	7.07	5.66		
£1,000 - £250,000	6.97	5.54		
Scarborough Standard	4.10	3.28		
£25,000 - £250,000	3.50	2.80		
£10,000 - £24,999.99	2.75	2.20		
£100 - £24,999.99	2.35	1.88		
First Post Plus	6.85	5.48		
£50,000 - £250,000	6.75	5.37		
£25,000 - £49,999.99	6.65	5.28		
£10,000 - £24,999.99	6.50	5.18		
Scarborough First Post*	5.95	4.08		
£10,000 - £24,999.99	5.85	3.98		
£1,000 - £19,999.99	5.75	3.88		
£100 - £24,999.99	5.60	3.80		
Keopsys Savings Bond & Bond By Post†	5.05	4.04		
£25,000 - £250,000	5.00	4.00		
£10,000 - £24,999.99	4.95	3.96		
Young Saversaver	5.60	4.48		
£1,000 - £5,000	4.90	3.92		
£25,000 - £49,999.99	4.40	3.52		
£10,000 - £24,999.99	4.30	3.42		
£100 - £24,999.99	4.20	3.32		
Supersaver Instant Access & Bond Instant Access By Post	4.45	3.56		
£25,000 - £250,000	4.40	3.51		
£10,000 - £24,999.99	4.35	3.46		
£1,000 - £24,999.99	4.30	3.41		
Instant Access By Post	5.65	4.52		
Scarborough TSB	4.45	3.56		
Keopsys Instant Access	5.00	4.00		
£25,000 - £250,000	4.95	3.96		
£10,000 - £24,999.99	4.90	3.92		
£1,000 - £24,999.99	4.85	3.84		
Young Saversaver	5.60	4.48		
£1,000 - £5,000	4.90	3.92		



# Shell companies still have their attraction

THE STOCK market may be in turmoil but trading in shells, one of the City's time-honoured exercises, continues to flourish. In the past month two have arrived and others are thought to be in various stages of fulfilment.

Shells are companies with little, if any, trading operations. They often have cash in the bank, but their price asset is their share quotation.

For a variety of reasons it is often cheaper, easier and quicker for an unquoted business to come to market via a shell than to indulge in a full-blown flotation.

Even stockbrokers have adopted the shell route. Earlier this year Teather & Greenwood reversed into NRC, a title property group, and last month Ellis & Partners picked the quirkily named Captain O M Watts, once a well-known yacht chandler, for its market debut.

The strength of both stockbrokers is their involvement in small companies and they are accomplished at alighting on suitable shells and arranging reverse takeovers.

Teather, in the market, is still known as NRC, but Ellis, which merged with Clifton Financial, a small company adviser, is now Talisman House. Both Teather and Ellis are traded on AIM.

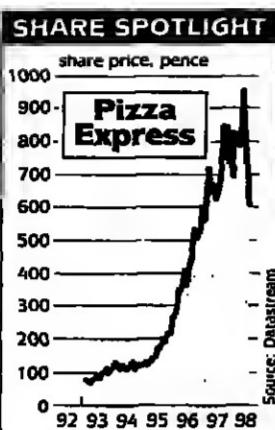
The Stock Exchange, for some unexplained reason, has never fully accepted the shell business. At times it has seemed intent on putting an end to it. But although it has become more refined over the years and adjusted for changes in the rules the shell practice, with a few hiccups, has survived and generally prospered.

Fotsize is not immune from the shell approach. Carlton Communications, the television group, came to market via a little company which published the *Fleet Street Let-*

## STOCK MARKET WEEK



### DEREK PAIN



Ter tip sheet and the likes of Tomkins and the now disbanded Hanson conglomerate more or less grew out of shells.

PizzaExpress, a mid cap constituent, emerged from an unsuccessful computer group under the direction of Luke Johnson. The former City analyst, the son of writer Paul, loves the shell approach but has not always hit the jackpot.

PizzaExpress, however, has had an outstanding run moving from the equivalent of 96.5p to hit 950p. It closed last week at 601p.

His latest shell (in more ways than one) is Belgo, a former property concern. He pumped two Belgian beer and mussel restaurants into the obscure company and since

added five of London's top eateries.

At one time shells were mainly plantation companies. These relics of empire limped along with share quotes, but little else, having been stripped of their operations as colonies gained their independence.

They often exerted their nationalist pride by taking over, usually paying for the privilege, the plantations.

One of the available shells is an old plantation company, Dalleith, once operating in Sri Lanka. It has experienced several incarnations. The last role was unsuccessful pub operator.

It sold its little chain and with cash in the bank awaits a reverse takeover proposal by a prosperous unquoted group. Its shares are 27.5p, giving a £1.5m capitalisation.

Delya, cash rich with some property interests, is regarded as another; its shares are 65.5p providing a rather more impressive £2.3m price tag.

Others looking for substance include Grosvenor Cpl and £2m) and Cambury (2.25p and £34m).

Hartford is a new breed, a specially-created shell. Its shares are suspended at 2.75p while it completes the reverse takeover of one of London's latest trendy restaurants, The Pharmacy, in a deal billed as worth £10m.

Most shells these days reside on AIM, although some likely candidates exist with full listings.

Investors can reap rich rewards. But a few words of warning: a reverse takeover often requires a heavy cash call and shareholders can be sharply diluted. And the revamped operation may be a disaster. Shells bitter the corporate graveyard and many which survive with their new yoke merely limp along with

little real future until they perhaps, find another reverse takeover.

Shells do not feature in this week's profits schedule, although Daejan, once a rubber planter now a property group and valued at £24m, holds its yearly meeting on Friday.

Enterprise Oil, with half year figures, heads the list; it will have to battle to stay in the black. BT Alex Brown's Caroline Cook expects an 88 per cent decline in clear net income to £28m.

The slump in the crude oil price is responsible for much of the woes afflicting Enterprise and the rest of the oil industry.

The building industry is well represented. House builder Persimmon is expected to produce interim profits of £28m (against £23.3m); Marley, now a building materials group, should manage half-time figures of £25.5m (£24.5m) and Graham, the builders' merchant, is thought to be set for interims of £11m (£13m).

Wickes, the once troubled group which is both builders merchant and retailer, should produce its first profits, albeit interim, since it was hit by an accountancy scandal three years ago. Around £1m against a £1.7m deficit is expected.

AMEC, the construction group, is another on the agenda; it could manage £21.5m up from £16m. Other interims are due from packaging groups Jefferson Smurfit and Buntz. The Irish-based operation could manage £11.00m against £6.5m and Buntz should produce a modest improvement at £6.5m.

Fashion retailer Monsoon with year's figures is thought to be on target for £26.5m against £15.4m. It floated in February.

## IN BRIEF

### Shell seeking a refining partner

ROYAL DUTCH/Shell yesterday said it was in talks with several big oil companies, including Texaco, about merging its European refining operations with a competitor.

The oil giant wants a merger to boost refining profits, which fell by 10 per cent in the second quarter of this year. Reports of full-blown merger talks with Texaco were dismissed as speculation.

### Reinsurer sale

CREDIT SUISSE GROUP is to sell the reinsurance arm of Winterthur Insurance to Bermuda-based PartnerRe for \$776m as the Swiss bank continues to restructure its portfolio.

Winterthur will concentrate on direct insurance, Credit Suisse said.

### Brew bid rejected

GROLSE, the Dutch brewing group, has rejected a takeover bid from Interbrew of Belgium. It said the NFT70 per share offer was not in the interests of shareholders. Interbrew said it would not launch a hostile bid.

### EU nod for BP

BP'S PROPOSED \$52.3bn merger with Amoco is not likely to face major regulatory problems in Europe, according to Karel van Miert. The EU competition commissioner said over the weekend: "It doesn't seem that problematic a case" because the two businesses "are to a large extent complementary."

### US 'grounds' C-17

BOEING'S attempt to export a civilian model of its C-17 military transport aircraft has stalled because of security concerns from the US government, reports said yesterday. Pentagon officials say that the MD-17, the civilian version, would provide any military force with a "tremendous capability".

The Duke's writ also asks for an order for payment to him from the defendants "not to exceed £10,000".

# Duke defends his family domain

## WHO'S SUING WHOM

### JOHN WILLCOCK



the trademark Playboy "rabit head" design.

The British defendants in the legal action include Sport Newspapers of Melton Road, Thurnham, Leicester.

The American Playboy business empire, founded by Hugh Hefner, has issued a writ in the London High Court via solicitors Lovell White Durrant and dated 12 August.

The writ seeks an injunction stopping the defendants from "distributing, selling, offering, advertising or exposing for sale or supply, video cassettes or business stationery the First Plaintiff's trademarks PLAYBOY, RABBIT HEAD DESIGN, PLAYMATE (and) PLAYMATE OF THE YEAR".

The defendants include Screen Multimedia of Maddox Street, London; City Trading of Barking, Essex; Palan Trading and Palan Distribution of Kingsway, London; and the proprietors of three "private shops" at Brewer Street in Soho, Forest Road in Walthamstow and Upton Lane in Forestgate respectively.

PORTSMOOUTH Football Club has launched a writ against ASICS UK, a company which has supplied playing kit to the club's players, and JJB Sports, which has supplied replica kit to supporters.

The club's writ, issued on 18 August, refers to various agreements between it and the defendants to produce kit featuring the club's logo between 1995 and 1997.

The writ also refers to an earlier dispute in 1997 when ASICS claimed it was owed money by the club.

The Club alleges that the defendants produced clothing featuring the Club's logo after the various sponsorship agreements had expired, and demands an injunction to stop them doing so. The writ, issued by solicitors Hammond Standards of Manchester, also asks for damages.



Philip Warland: Not even a prayer of being ready

## THIS WEEK'S DIARY

**TODAY** - Interims: BCH Group, Calderburn, Finlay (James), IBC, Marshalls, Perkins Food, Burzl, CRH, Persimmon. Finals: Almacus Group, AGMs: Laporte, Transport Development Group, Economics: Purchasing Managers' Index (August), Provisional M0 (August), Final M4 (July), Consumer Credit (July), Monetary and Financial Statistics.

**WEDNESDAY** - Interims: Beauford, Bistrace International, CMG, Graham Group, Guardian Group, Hickson Group, Johnston Press, Matalan, Mitras, Skyspharma, Serco, Wilson Bowden. Finals: Britt Allcroft, Lincs Printing, Monsoon, Roxspur. AGMs:

Huntingdon Life, Economics: UK official reserves (August).

**THURSDAY** - Interims: AMEC, Boozy & Hawkes, Caird, Clubhaus, Delphi Group, Enterprise Oil, Evans Halshaw, Marchpole, Meggin, Marley, Senior Engineering, Slough Estates, Swallowfield, Wembley, Wickes, Wilson (Connolly). Finals: IAF Group, Isotron, AGMs: Man (ED&F), Economics: CPS Service Survey (August).

**FRIDAY** - Interims: Hammerson, ITNet, AGMs: Daejan Holdings, General Electric, Economics: Construction output (Q2), New car sales (August).

# ISA providers warn of delays

THE GOVERNMENT'S plans for Individual Savings Accounts have suffered a further setback from providers who warn they will not be able to offer government-endorsed ISAs when they come on stream next April.

Providers say delays in detailed government proposals for "CAT-marked" ISAs - savings meeting prescribed criteria for Cost, Access and Terms - mean few, if any, of the

products will be available to the public on schedule.

Hard proposals have been put back until October at the earliest following the last cabinet reshuffle, when Helen Liddell, the Treasury minister in charge of the plans, was replaced by Patricia Hewitt.

Autif, the unit trust trade body, now says it's going to be "impossible" for its members to

adapt computer systems in time to offer unit trusts within CAT-marked ISAs by April 6, the scheduled start date.

Philip Warland, its director general, said unit trust firms - already preoccupied with screening for the millennium computer bug - had "not the faintest prayer" of having systems ready.

M&G, one of the biggest unit trust managers, said Treasury plans for single pricing on CAT-

marked ISAs would add to systems problems. Most unit trust providers are still not set up to offer single-pricing on unit trusts.

They say the Government could be blamed if customers lose money in products holding the Treasury's seal of approval. While the delays are certain to affect ISAs carrying the government's CAT-mark, many providers will offer ISAs which are not endorsed by the Treasury.

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# SPORT



Joey Benjamin (main picture) took five wickets against Nottinghamshire while Ian Ward (top right) and Nadeem Shahid (bottom right) have scored heavily when replacing Surrey's England men



Allsport

## Surrey's winning squad ethic

**THE REMARKABLE** thing about Surrey's summer is not that they are top of the Championship, nor the fact that they have stayed there, setting the pace virtually from the outset, but rather who has kept them there. Because it has not been the household names who have been doing all the hard work this summer.

When Alec Stewart, Graham Thorpe, Mark Butcher, Ian Salisbury, Alastair Brown, Adam Hollioake and his brother Ben and have all gone off to do their bit for Queen, Lord MacLaurin and country, Surrey have had to turn to their volunteer reserve force for some sterling work in maintaining the Championship.

It has not just been England calls which have decimated the squad either – injuries have taxed Surrey's staffing levels too. Thorpe joined the casualty list halfway through the season and was ruled out for the rest of it, joining the opening batsman Darren Bicknell, who did not even start it. And latterly Alex Tudor and Ben Hollioake have both been laid up.

For each enforced absence – and the club has had to cope with a minimum of three England calls plus a couple of injuries at any one time this year – players have had to be found who were capable and competent enough to step into the breach. More than that, though, there has to be confidence in the side that allows the stand-ins to step in at a moment's notice and just perform.

Equally, the regulars remaining in the team have to have faith in the under-18s' abilities and, more importantly, communicate that faith to the in-comers.

As proud as each and every one of their internationals must have felt as they have walked off to represent their country, there is no doubt that they will have cast more than one anxious glance over their shoulder wondering whether Surrey can manage without them.

The answer, almost every time, has been that they could. So who are these brave few? These stalwarts on whom a county relies in time of need? They are men whose names should be carved into the walls of the Surrey pavilion should Hollioake and his men win the County Championship for the first time since Micky Stewart, now their president, led Surrey to the title in 1971.

The names of Jason Ratcliffe, Nadeem Shahid, Ian Ward and Joey Benjamin do not exactly get autograph hunters salivating and licking their pencils, but what they have achieved in the absence of the big guns is quite something. Runs and wickets have been the name of the game.

The figures speak for themselves. Ratcliffe has made 449 runs at 32.07, with a hundred and two half-centuries; Shahid, 576 runs at 41.14, with two hundreds and three fifties; Ward, 498 at 33.20, with five half-centuries. Benjamin has provided critical support for Martin Bicknell,

**Stewart and Co may have been away with England but their replacements have done cricket's**

**Championship leaders proud.** By David Llewellyn

the strike bowler, from time to time – and took five crucial wickets when a depleted Surrey beat Nottinghamshire last time out.

Of the regulars, Bicknell goes into today's match against Yorkshire with 60 wickets (average 18.26) in the Championship. Saqlain Mushtaq's off-spin has put him third in the averages with 63 wickets at 16.66 apiece. Ben Hollioake, too, has started to come good with the ball.

Brown has led the way with the bat, scoring four hundreds and five half-centuries to bring himself within sight of his 1,000 for the summer – 964 at 60.25.

It has taken some time but it is beginning to look as if Surrey have finally got it together, in the truest sense of the word. "We are made to feel appreciated by Surrey," admitted Ratcliffe, who is in his fourth season at The Oval after leaving his native Warwickshire at the end of the 1994 season. "None of us is happy with our situation," he continued, alluding to the fact that the "reserves" would rather be automatic first choices. "But, to be fair, to Surrey they look after us well. We are made to feel we belong."

"It is hard to be in, then out of the

side, and when we are in to be expected to perform, but we are giving everything to the cause."

It is the squad ethic – something that the English, and possibly even the British, find hard to get their heads around. Alec Stewart, as captain of England, did something that suggested he is aware of the concept of squad.

### Championship Top Five

	P	W	L	D	BB	TC
Surrey	14	9	5	0	35	50 235
Leics	14	8	6	0	33	39 220
Glos	14	8	5	1	25	44 212
Notts	14	8	9	1	35	53 202

### Remaining fixtures

Today: Yorkshire (Headingley), 9 Sept;

Durham (Chester-le-Street), 17 Sept;

Leicestershire (The Oval), 17 Sept.

Today: Warwickshire (Edgbaston), 9 Sept;

Middlesex (Leyton), 17 Sept; Surrey (The Oval).

Today: Derbyshire (Old Trafford), 11 Sept;

Nottinghamshire (Trent Bridge), 17 Sept;

Gloucestershire (Tettenhall), 17 Sept.

Today: Northamptonshire (Bristol), 9 Sept;

Middlesex (Lord's), 17 Sept; Nottinghamshire (Trent Bridge).

Today: Surrey (Headingley), 9 Sept; Warwickshire (Headingley), 17 Sept; Sussex (Hove).

After England had clinched the Test series over South Africa at Headingley, one of the first things Stewart did was to ring Thorpe and Glamorgan's Robert Croft, both of whom had played three matches in the series. "You win and lose together in the squad," Stewart said. "That is what Surrey have, a strength in depth in terms of talent and a lot of unsung heroes on whom you know you can rely when you need them. Surrey's present position can be put down to a real club effort."

Another man, watching from a distance these days, who is not surprised at what Surrey are achieving is David Gilbert, now Sussex's deputy chief executive and director of cricket, but last year the cricket manager at The Oval. It would be a churlish and a curmudgeonly person who would deny Gilbert some of the credit for Surrey's success this year.

Gilbert is too modest even to hint at it, but he admitted: "I'm not surprised that they are where they are, nor that they can withstand the loss of so many talented players at critical times and still win. If ever a competition was created for the squad system, it then has to be the County Championship. And the

bowling in tandem with the leg-splinter Ian Salisbury there will be sides dreading playing at The Oval in August and September. A hit like when sides were reticent, although for reasons of personal safety, about visiting The Oval when the fast bowlers Sylvester Clarke and Tony Gray were performing.

These days the pitches at The Oval are not the hard bouncy ones of days gone by. They suit spin these days. Championship-winning sides in the past have had spin twins, Middlesex had Emburey and Edmonds, Essex had Such and Childs and Surrey in the 1950s had Laker and Lock. In the late 1990s they have Saglan and Salisbury.

"Another factor in the Surrey success has to be the guys such as Martin Bicknell, who is bowling better these days than at any time in his career. I wonder how long England can go on ignoring him. It's about time they forgave him for his early-career injury problems."

"Then there is the fact that they can call on so many talented players who cannot command a regular first-team place and those guys then perform. They also have a good manager in Keith Medlycott, an old Surrey player who understands that special togetherness of the club and has ensured it has not been lost with all the injuries and international calls. It all boils down to them having a good squad set-up."

Surrey's prospects are clearly in good hands.

## Holmes benefitting from new realism

### ATHLETICS

BY MIKE ROWBOTTOM

SO IMMersed was Kelly Holmes in her return to the athletics scene in Glasgow on Sunday that she missed the team bus back to the hotel because she was signing autographs. She knows now, however, that she is not going to miss the bus as far as the Commonwealth Games are concerned.

On an afternoon when the overall mood was one of celebration, with a sell-out crowd eager to acknowledge Britain's returning European champions, there was a tension about

Holmes's race over a mile which had to do with the fear – hers, and the spectators' – that her first serious competition after a 13-month absence with a ruptured Achilles tendon, the 28-year-old Tonbridge athlete, has endured a nightmarish period of exile.

Following an ineffective operation to clear scar tissue in January, she was still questioning whether she had a future in the sport as late as of May.

"It was a lonely, hard year," she said. "I got to the stage where I just didn't know where to look. Your mind starts to play tricks on you when you can't see any way of getting back. I wasn't going to give up, but it was very hard to see a future."

Holmes credits with saving her career, Ger Hartmann.

After breaking down in the heats of last year's world championships with a ruptured Achilles tendon, the 28-year-old Tonbridge athlete has endured a nightmarish period of exile.

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But the future was bright; the future was Hartmann. Through Britain's team doctor, Malcolm Brown, Holmes was put in contact with the man whom Liz McColgan had said had saved her career four years ago, and the work of rehabilitation began in earnest.

For four days, as Hartmann manipulated the scar tissue on her leg to restore mobility in her ankle, the woman who used to be an Army PT instructor and judo champion was reduced to tears. "It was agony," she said. "But it was worthwhile."

Holmes's sequence of injuries in recent years – shin splints in 1995,

a stress fracture which she attempted in vain to disregard at the 1996 Olympics – has caused many to question whether she has tended to over-train. Her most recent injury occurred during a final session of preparation for last year's world championships, which she had approached in the form of her life.

She says now that she has altered her approach. "I've learnt what things my body can and can't take," she said. "There is a line between being very fit and being injured, and you don't always know where the line is. But if I'm tired now, I will have a rest day, whereas before I would probably just have gone out for another session."

On a smaller scale, Glasgow represented a confirmation of health for another British woman athlete, namely Alison Curbishley, who set a Scottish All Comers' 400m record of 50.73sec. For Curbishley, who plans to move up to 400m hurdles next season, it was an unexpected bonus after a European Championship where her disappointment at finishing only fifth in the individual event was tempered by the relay medal.

"I was in the shape of my mind and I really saw myself being up there," she said. "When you are not, you go back to the team hotel really desolate. Now I am back in pb ways and, as the cliché goes, I'm over the moon."



Holmes: Back in business

# Claydon is happy among the heavyweights

GOLF  
BY JOHN OAKLEY

RUSSELL CLAYDON may weigh more than 16 stone but he has no intention of going on any fitness courses.

The 32-year-old from Cambridge won his first European Tour event at the BMW International in Munich, and many of his fellow professionals believe he might be even better if he lost a little weight. But Claydon is a happy soul. "If you think I'm going to run round Brighton beach, you have another think coming," he said.

Claydon, who won in Munich on Sunday with an 18-under-par aggregate of 270 to beat Jamie Spence by one shot, also has the most unorthodox grip of any Tour professional. He wraps his huge hands round the club with a three-knuckle grip and said cheerfully: "Well, it works."

It certainly did on Sunday as he beat off the challenge of Spence, the Germans Thomas Gogel and Bernhard Langer, and the Danish Ryder Cup player Thomas Bjorn as he finished with a four-under-par 68. Claydon's win came just one week before the points for the 1999 Ryder Cup in Brookline, Massachussetts, start at the Canon European Masters in Switzerland.

Asked if he was sorry to have won one week too early, Claydon replied: "Not at all. I might win next week as well."

David Duval became the second player in US PGA Tour history to win more than \$2m in a season with a two-stroke victory at the World Series of Golf in Ohio.

Duval joined Tiger Woods as the US tour's only two men the \$270,000 first prize boosting his 1998 earnings to almost \$1.4m. He also became the first player since Zimbabwe's Nick Price in 1993-94 to win at least three tournaments in consecutive years. Since 1960, only seven other players have accomplished the feat - Jack Nicklaus, Arnold Palmer, Billy Casper, Raymond Floyd, Tom Watson, Lee Trevino and Johnny Miller.

The 26-year-old from Florida ended a recent slump that saw him miss the cut on his previous two starts, the PGA Championship and Sprint International. He carded a two-under 68 for an 11-under 269 total.

Phil Mickelson, who led after the first round, also closed with a 68 to grab sole possession of second place.

Davis Love was third on eight-under 272. John Cook was four shots back; one stroke ahead of Woods and Loren Roberts.

In Canada's Greater Vancouver Open, Brandel Chamblee fired a final round five-under-par 66 to gain his first career victory.

Chamblee finished at 19-under-par 265 and won by three shots as he tied the tournament record set last year by Mark Calcavecchia. The 36-year-old won after Payne Stewart faltered over the closing holes. Stewart held a one-shot lead over Chamblee entering the final round, but managed

just a one-under 70 and has won only once since his victory in the 1991 US Open. He had a pair of bogeys over the final five holes.

The captain of the United States' Solheim Cup team,

Judy Rankin has used her two choices for the team on Rosie Jones and Steinbauer; who finished 11th and 12th in the Cup standings.

Rankin said that was not nearly as important as their experience.

Jones, who needed to win the State Farm Rail Classic this weekend to earn a spot on the team but instead missed the cut, has a 4-2 record in the 1990 and 1996 Solheim Cup.

Rankin look harder at Steinbauer, and she feels she came up with a winner.

Steinbauer was also 12th on the money list, the highest of any American who was not already on the team, and she was ranked fifth in birdies and sixth in greens in regulation, two important statistics for match play.

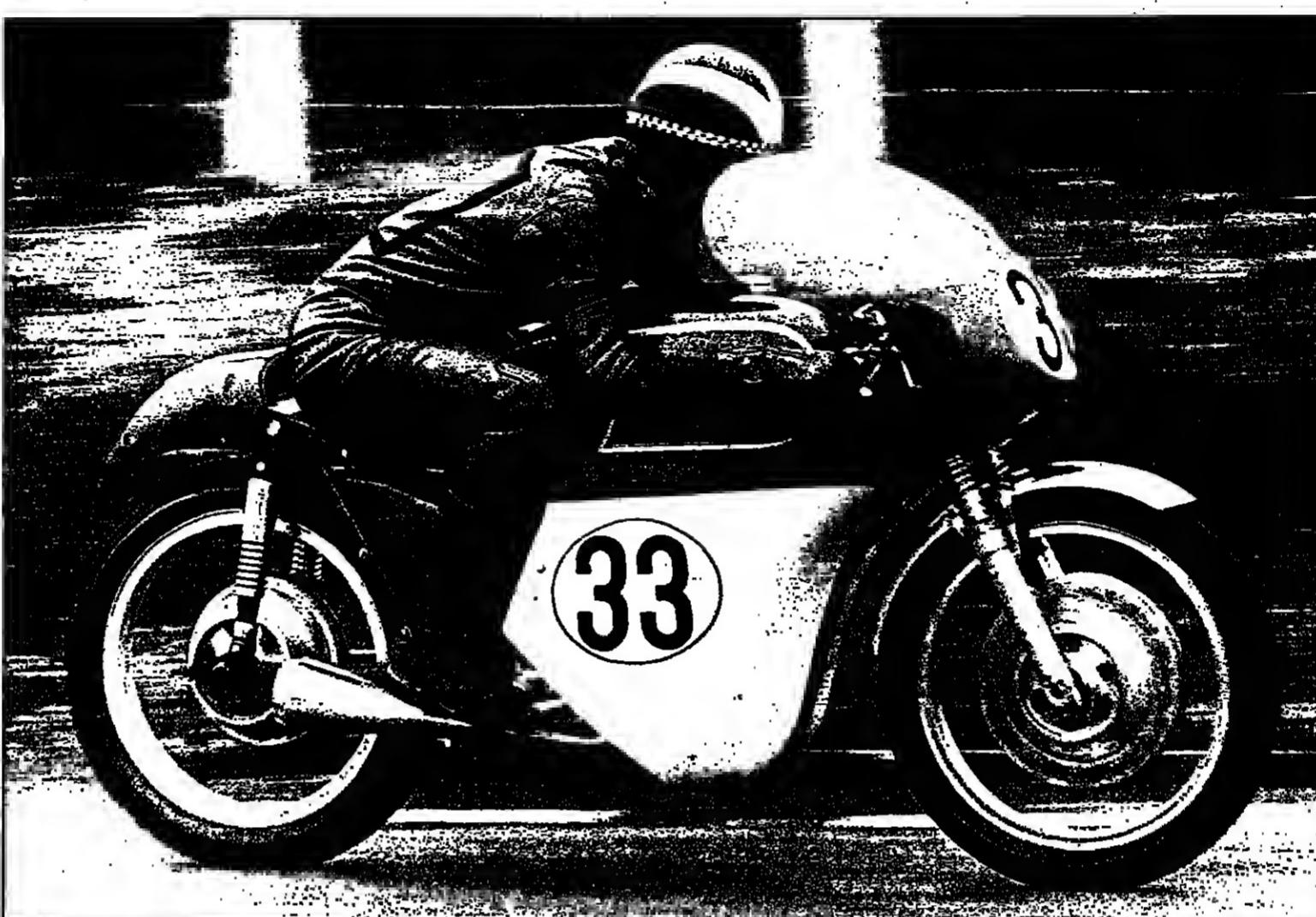
"When you look at my list from 11 to 20, she is the player who stepped forward and has done something," Rankin said. "When I looked in depth at some of the things she was accomplishing, she deserved her shot. She earned points in seven events this year, which I couldn't get other players to do."

All that did was make

## TT hero rides a storm to the end



Alan Seeley sees the hero and villain of Manx racing, Phil Read (left), finish a poignant final lap



was the final straw. But the Isle

of Man is still the greatest and most challenging circuit in the world."

Returning to the island in 1977, Read proved he had lost none of his aptitude for the Mountain Course, snatching victory in the Formula One and the prestigious senior events, on a Honda and a Suzuki.

"It was a very emotional and worrying return. I had a van with my name on the side which I parked on the sea-front in Douglas. A policeman knocked on the hotel room door and suggested I hide the van round the back for fear of public reprisal.

This duly happened, but made Read unpopular with many Isle of Man purists.

Read is unrepentant about his support of the campaign, but retains a soft spot for the Isle of Man:

"By the early 70s we had a feeling that rider safety wasn't at the top of the race organisers' priorities, and the price for riders who did come a cropper was far too high. Parrott's death

was the final straw. But the Isle

of Man is still the greatest and most challenging circuit in the world."

Before this year, Read's last competitive island race was in 1982 when he posted his fastest-ever Mountain Course lap, taking 20m 22.8sec to cover the 38 miles, averaging 111.09mph. A consummate all-rounder, Read is the only racer ever to win world championships in 125, 250 and 500cc classes.

"I would ride any bike I was

contracted to ride to the maximum of its and my ability. Road racing is the only thing I ever wanted to do, so I just got on with it with a will to win. Second place is the first loser," Read said.

His latest and last island outing got off to a blistering start, with the Prince of Speed posting the third-fastest time in the first practice session. "A lot of the really fast boys

haven't been out yet and my

to win the Formula One, there

was a slightly louder cheer for me at the prizegiving."

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haven't been out yet and my

averages are some way off the pace," he added.

Read was right to be cau-

tious. His Matchless G50 500cc racer, typical of the type of bike he began his career on, presented him and his team with endless problems. He broke down in sight of the finish line on his first lap of Monday evening practice, but with typical panache, took a taxi back to the paddock rather than wait for his team to pick him up once the roads had re-opened.

Read did not feel under pressure to win. All he hoped for was a top 10 finish and a couple of 100mph average laps.

He did not quite get there, but when the flag dropped, he went all out for glory, just like he had done for the last 40 years.

A diary of Phil Read's TT story

will appear in *Classic Bike*, published on 23 September.



Phil Read in his racing heyday (main picture) and on the Matchless G50 (above) which he took to 16th place in yesterday's Senior Classic. *Classic Bike*/John Watterson

## Croat cruises through

TENNIS  
BY JOHN ROBERTS  
at Flushing Meadow

GORAN IVANISEVIC, tipped as a dark horse for the United States Open by Pat Rafter, the defending men's singles champion, took a confident first step towards a possible fourth-round meeting with the Australian yesterday.

Inconsolable after losing to Pete Sampras in five sets in the third Wimbledon final in July, Ivanisevic was in a brighter mood after defeating Mark Woodforde, one of Rafter's compatriots, in the opening round. The Croat won, 6-3, 6-4, 6-4, after 97 minutes.

Woodforde was not impressed. "He's got a serve and nothing else," he said. Right or wrong, Woodforde speaks from experience. He has lost six of his eight matches against the fellow left-hander.

Ivanisevic expected Woodforde to damn him with faint praise. "He doesn't like me," the Croat said. "He tried one time to hit me with the ball. He should retire from singles and stick to doubles. He's pretty old, can't move, and has that rubbish backhand. He only covers half the court playing doubles. If I have a son, I will show him pictures of Woodforde and tell him not to play like him."

The tone suggested that Ivanisevic had recovered his mischievous approach to the game after his Wimbledon disappointment. "It took a long time to try to forget about it," he said. "Pictures kept coming back."

Although Ivanisevic has yet to win an American tournament, he is optimistic of making an impact here. "I'm playing good, the court is playing faster, and anything is possible," he said. "Last time I won in the first round I reached the semis."

## Drivers query lack of safety car

MOTOR RACING

BY DERICK ALLSOP

A BELGIAN Grand Prix of unsurpassed drama confirmed the improbable emergence of a compelling spectacle and a new force in the sport from depressingly barren beginnings. Damon Hill's victory, a break-through for Jordan, eased the fears of Formula One's promoters that the championship would prove a cakewalk for McLaren-Mercedes, but it was the safety of drivers in the appalling conditions at Spa-Francorchamps that dominated thoughts in the aftermath of the race.

Several teams questioned why the race began and was allowed to continue for long periods without a safety car when drivers were racing at high speeds with no visibility.

"You have to question the safety issues," said Benetton's chief executive, Dave Richards, whose drivers, Giancarlo

Fisichella and Alexander Wurz, failed to finish due to accidents.

"Most of the incidents were

cars running into the back of each other because they were just not visible through the spray. I am just thankful nobody

was seriously hurt."

Wurz, who hit McLaren's David Coulthard soon after the restart, believed the original race

- when he destroyed his Benetton - should have begun under the safety car. "The first crash was really scary," he said. Fisichella, whose car caught fire after a collision, said the safety car should have been brought out much earlier in the restarted race as the accidents continued.

However, both the champion-

ship protagonists were victims

of the mayhem, leaving the door

open for the pack. But it was not Benetton, the first of the year's

pursuers to capitalise, or

Williams, who joined the hunt

more recently. It was Jordan

and Hill, the team and driver

seemingly pedalling backwards

in the first half of the season.

see nothing in front of my face.

The conditions made it very difficult and the safety car issue will have to be looked at."

But Hill would acknowledge that the conditions helped him.

Mika Hakkinen and

McLaren-Mercedes made a

commanding start the season

and in truth they still have

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formance in the dry in practice.

Ferrari, and Michael Schumacher in particular, have

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# Odd ending to Nautical tale

BY GREG WOOD

IT IS only a few days since the man leading the race for the amateur riders' championship was unmasked as a former professional jockey from America, but anyone on the lookout for a "ringer" at Epsom yesterday would have left disappointed. The biggest race of the amateurs' year, the Moot & Chandon Silver Magnum, was its usual blend of overexcitement and inexperience, and while a few punters will have been congratulating themselves after backing the winner, Nautical Star at 14-1, baffle-

ment was a more widespread emotion.

Take, for instance, the ride which Michael Rosport gave to Night City, the second-favourite at 100-30. Rosport's low-slung posture in the saddle is vaguely reminiscent of Lester Piggott, but when it came to the more important matter of judging the pace, he turned out to have as much class as Leiceseter Square. Night City set off at roughly the same rate as the five-furlong sprinters who were trying to break the world speed record half an hour earlier, and was utterly exhausted with half of the 12 furlongs still to run.

Then there was the reluctance of the Epsom stewards to inquire into the use of the whip by Patrick Palibes, a French doctor, on the eventual winner, not least because he seemed to smack Opera Buff, his only challenger through the final quarter mile, squarely on the nose just under two furlongs from home. An unfortunate accident it may have been, but if Palibes' stick did indeed make contact, it is hardly surprising that Opera Buff then proved very reluctant to quicken when asked to overtake him.

That aside, Palibes was also walloping Nautical Star with the sort of Gallic gusto which no-one bothers about on the other side of the Channel, but would normally earn a British jockey an instant suspension. Futile though an inquiry would ultimately have been – a few days off is not much of a penalty for a non-professional rider – this was just the sort of inconsistency which drives people mad. Palibes enjoyed the greatest moment of the life in the saddle, but it was Nautical Star that appeared to pay the price.

A more stirring spectacle was the sprint handicap, in which Repertory failed by just 15 hundredths of a second to lower the track record and claim the unofficial title of the world's fastest horse. Had he been drawn in stall 12, on the



Elnadim, favourite to redeem his reputation in Saturday's Stanley Leisure Sprint Cup at Haydock

Phil Smith

## ANTE-POST ACTION

STANLEY LEISURE SPRINT CUP (SF)					
Horse (Trainer)	Course	Wt	Lodgings	Stanley	Rate
Elnadim (J Durstrop)	100-30	7-2	5-2	7-2	7-2
Lochangel (R Chaytor)	4-1	9-2	9-2	4-1	4-1
Tanerik (R Chaytor)	5-1	9-1	5-1	5-1	8-1
Ardenhill Hero (S Cumani)	5-1	9-1	5-1	11-2	8-1
Tombie (S Meakin)	6-1	7-1	16-1	6-1	20-1
Grade (S M Prescott)	8-1	7-1	13-1	8-1	8-1
Land Of Dreams (M Johnson)	12-1	10-1	12-1	10-1	10-1
Bethel (J Berry)	12-1	10-1	14-1	12-1	12-1
Blancou (A P Darby M)	14-1	10-1	16-1	12-1	12-1
Andriover (R Hanlon)	14-1	10-1	14-1	20-1	20-1
Eastern Purple (R Falvey)	20-1	10-1	20-1	20-1	25-1
Superior Premium (R Falvey)	20-1	10-1	20-1	25-1	20-1
Croton Girl (N Littenden)	33-1	33-1	33-1	40-1	25-1
Daunting Lady (R Hanlon)	66-1	50-1	50-1	50-1	33-1
Tedesco (M Johnson)	66-1	40-1	50-1	66-1	50-1
Yester Boy (B McLean)	66-1	8-1	50-1	66-1	40-1

Each way 5/6 the odds places 1, 2, 3 Haydock, Stanley

## RIPON

## HYPERION

2.30 Roemoor Girl 4.30 Rolling Rio  
3.00 Hugwity (nb) 5.00 Equerry  
3.30 Perugino Bay 5.30 Amilage  
4.00 TRAILBLAZER (nap)

GOING: Good to soft. 3m – stands side, round course – inclinc.

DRAW ADVANTAGE: None

Right-hand course, good grip with light bands.

LEADING TRAINERS: M Johnson 23 wins from 123 runners (18.7%), T Easterby 16-15 (13.9%), J Berry 15-31 (11.5%), L Curran 12-46 (25.6%).

LEADING JOCKEYS: J Darby 41 wins from 167 rides (24.6%), J Weaver 25-129 (15.4%), J Williams 17-188 (10.3%), J Fortune 11 wins from 90 rides (12.2%).

FAVOURITES: 2-2 (nb), 3-2 (nb).

BLUNKED FIRST TIME: Ortel Star (2.30), Ride Dominion (4.30), Hot Explorer (5.30), Amilage (High) (4.00).

2.30 NAGS HEAD AT PICKHILL MAIDEN AUCTION STAKES (CLASS F) £3,500 added 2YO 5f Penalty Value £2,785

1. 001 ROEMOOR GIRL (B) Barry M Chapman 8 10... T Wilson 2

2. 002 MANDEIREZ (P) M Allison &amp; Co J Fitz-Gerald 8 10... J Weaver 15

3. 003 REACTIVE (C) Cayton Bay Partnership M Littenden 8 10... R Lappin 10

4. 004 PERUGINO BOY (C) Mrs Goss Stokely 8 10... S Williams 10

5. 005 ELSIE BAMFORD (C) Mrs Shafee Ramzan 8 10... K Darby 15

6. 006 JUST EQUERRY (D) (nb) Mrs Jackson 8 10... J McEvoy 7 6

7. 007 ROEMOOR GIRL (10) (nb) Reng Bondi 8 10... D O'Brien 8

8. 008 TIME IN MOTION (8) (nb) Mrs Jude Bondi 8 10... F Norton 8

9. 009 TREAD SOFTLY (7) (nb) Fane 8 10... R Wilson 9 5

10. 010 SPANISH VELVET (7) (nb) Goss Stokely 8 10... S Williams 10

11. 011 JAMES DEE (7) (nb) Goss Stokely 8 10... D Goss 10

12. 012 PAHRASO BOY (3) (nb) Goss Stokely 8 10... M Fenton 7

13. 013 BECKON (7) (nb) Lark Burchard 7 10... S Williams 7

14. 014 FIRST MISTRESS (P) (7) (nb) Stephen M W Easterby 8 10... G Parkin 3

15. 015 BROUGHTONS SON (8) (nb) Lord &amp; Bridgeman 8 10... D Goss 9

16. 016 CEATI SEAL (22) (nb) Pauls Eight 7 10... N Carlisle 12

17. 017 ORTEL STAR (7) (nb) McEvoy 7 10... J McCarthy 11 11

18. 018 ROLLING RIO (7) (nb) McEvoy 7 10... J McCarthy 11 11

19. 019 BLUNKED (7) (nb) Reng Bondi 7 10... J McCarthy 11 11

20. 020 AMILAGE (7) (nb) McEvoy 7 10... J McCarthy 11 11

21. 021 HYPERION (7) (nb) McEvoy 7 10... J McCarthy 11 11

22. 022 TERRIFIC (7) (nb) McEvoy 7 10... J McCarthy 11 11

23. 023 CARRIERS (7) (nb) McEvoy 7 10... J McCarthy 11 11

24. 024 DALMALS (20) (nb) Lam Ferguson 8 10... F Norton 7

25. 025 HOT POTATO (7) (nb) Mrs Donald 8 10... P Bradley 7 2

26. 026 ABERDEEN (7) (nb) J Berry 8 2... - declared

27. 027 PEGASUS (7) (nb) McEvoy 7 10... J McCarthy 11 11

28. 028 ROLLING RIO (7) (nb) McEvoy 7 10... J McCarthy 11 11

29. 029 SPANISH VELVET (7) (nb) McEvoy 7 10... J McCarthy 11 11

30. 030 CLARO CONDITIONS STAKES (CLASS C) £2,250 added 2YO 5f Penalty Value £4,398

1. 031 CHOTO MATE (6) (nb) Vernon Cart Mardon 9 10... R Hughes 5

2. 032 CARRIERS (7) (nb) McEvoy 7 10... J McCarthy 11 11

3. 033 CARTMEL (7) (nb) McEvoy 7 10... J McCarthy 11 11

4. 034 DALMALS (20) (nb) Lam Ferguson 8 10... F Norton 7

5. 035 MISS POTATO (7) (nb) Mrs Donald 8 10... P Bradley 7 2

6. 036 TERRIFIC (7) (nb) McEvoy 7 10... J McCarthy 11 11

7. 037 SPANISH VELVET (7) (nb) McEvoy 7 10... J McCarthy 11 11

8. 038 CLARO CONDITIONS STAKES (CLASS C) £2,250 added 2YO 5f Penalty Value £4,398

1. 039 YEAST (10) (nb) Hedges 8 10... J McCarthy 11 11

2. 040 PENSION FUNDS (12) (nb) Stephen J Cart Mardon 9 10... T Lucas 5

3. 041 HAMMICK CLOUDY (10) (nb) Don E Innes 8 10... J McCarthy 11 11

4. 042 DICK FRANCIS' FIELD OF 13' HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS C) £10,000 added 3m

1. 043 DICKY DORA (10) (nb) Hedges 8 10... J McCarthy 11 11

2. 044 BUILDER BOY (10) (nb) Broomfield 8 10... J McCarthy 11 11

3. 045 VANGUARD HANDICAP (CLASS D) £3,500 added 1m Penalty Value £2,677

1. 046 SHARP SHUFFLE (24) (nb) M Hinchliffe 8 10... J McCarthy 11 11

2. 047 EDIBURGH (8) (nb) A McLean 8 10... J McCarthy 11 11

3. 048 FLOWERS CYANINE (11) (nb) E French 8 10... J McCarthy 11 11

4. 049 LOCHANGEL (10) (nb) M Hinchliffe 8 10... J McCarthy 11 11

5. 050 MONO LADY (10) (nb) Mandie Retractions Ltd 8 10... J McCarthy 11 11

6. 051 PEGASUS (10) (nb) Mrs C E Mardon 8 10... J McCarthy 11 11

7. 052 PLUMMER (10) (nb) Mrs C E Mardon 8 10... J McCarthy 11 11

8. 053 TERRIFIC (10) (nb) Mrs C E Mardon 8 10... J McCarthy 11 11

9. 054 VANGUARD (10) (nb) Mrs C E Mardon 8 10... J McCarthy 11 11

10. 055 ROLLING RIO (10) (nb) Mrs C E Mardon 8 10... J McCarthy 11 11

11. 056 HOT POTATO (10) (nb) Mrs C E Mardon 8 10... J McCarthy 11 11

12. 057 SPANISH VELVET (10) (nb) Mrs C E Mardon 8 10... J McCarthy 11 11

13. 058 CARRIERS (10) (nb) Mrs C E Mardon 8 10... J McCarthy 11 11

14. 059 CLOUDY (10) (nb) Mrs C E Mardon 8 10... J McCarthy 11 11

15. 060 SPANISH VELVET (10) (nb) Mrs C E Mardon 8 10... J McCarthy 11 11

16. 061 CARRIERS (10) (nb) Mrs C E Mardon 8 10... J McCarthy 11 11

17. 062 CLOUDY (10) (nb) Mrs C E Mardon 8 10... J McCarthy 11 11

18. 063 CARRIERS (10) (nb) Mrs C E Mardon 8 10... J McCarthy 11 11

19. 064 CARRIERS (10) (nb) Mrs C E Mardon 8 10... J McCarthy 11 11

20. 065 CARRIERS (10) (nb) Mrs C E Mardon 8 10... J McCarthy 11 11

21. 066 CARRIERS (10) (nb) Mrs C E Mardon 8 10... J McCarthy 11 11

22. 067 CARRIERS (10) (nb) Mrs C E Mardon 8 10... J McCarthy 11 11

23. 068 CARRIERS (10) (nb) Mrs C E Mardon 8 10... J McCarthy 11 11

24. 069 CARRIERS (10) (nb) Mrs C E Mardon 8 10... J McCarthy 11 11

25. 070 CARRIERS (10) (nb) Mrs C E Mardon 8 10... J McCarthy 11 11

26. 071 CARRIERS (10) (nb) Mrs C E Mardon 8 10... J McCarthy 11 11

27. 072 CARRIERS (10) (nb) Mrs C E Mardon 8 10... J McCarthy 11 11

28. 073 CARRIERS (10) (nb) Mrs C E Mardon 8 10... J McCarthy 11 11

29. 074 CARRIERS (10) (nb

# Survival of fittest awaits Ashes squad

By DEREK PRINGLE

ACCORDING TO the spin doctors of their tourist board, Australia is a pleasant country of barbecues, beaches and cuddly koalas. For the 17 members of England's cricket team announced this morning at Lord's the reality will be quite different and several months of hardship await, particularly if Shane Warne is fit enough to do some spinning of his own.

Bar the brutal West Indies tours of the 1980s, an Ashes tour Down Under is the toughest of them all. This winter England face four months of hard grounds, hard travelling and even harder opposition. Win or lose, it will be an endurance

test that will stretch and strain both body and will.

For that reason England need players of uncompromising attitude. There is, as the coach David Lloyd has already pointed out, no room for "iffy characters". Because this tour does not have a lengthy acclimatisation period - only three first-class matches before the first two Tests, which are back to back and 2,000 miles apart - England must identify their most likely 11 in time for the tour opener in Perth on 31 October.

Providing Graham Thorpe has fully recovered from the operation to remove a cyst from his back the top-six batsmen pick themselves, though Mark Ramprakash will have come under recent pressure.

As the tour is long, England are planning to take a reserve wicket-keeper rather than a makeshift. This means only one spare batting place remains. Barring a volte-face from the selectors and the inclusion of Nick Knight the berth, at least on the evidence of this test, will probably go to John Crawley rather than Graeme Hick, despite the former's open distaste of touring.

The plight of Hick, who averaged almost 42 on the last tour of Australia, is a difficult one. As a play-er, Hick's supporters and detractors virtually cancel each other out. If the selectors want Hick perhaps it should be at the expense of Ramprakash, whose batting since his marvellous century in

Barbados is once more tending towards inertia.

Alec Stewart's understudy as wicket-keeper will fail to either Lancashire's Warren Hegg or Paul Nixon of Leicestershire. Due to the tenacity of Jack Russell both have been in the background a long time, though Hegg did tour Australia with the England A team a few winters back. However, as the pair are capable batsmen it is not inconceivable at some stage, especially if England gamble on starting with Ben Hollioake as the all-rounder, that Stewart could relinquish the gloves and bat the keeper at No 7.

Given that it is the selectors' intention to take a young bowler as 17th man - a position that will probably fall to Surrey's Alex Tudor rather than Durham's Stephen Harrison - only one of the five pace bowling places requires argument.

Notwithstanding injury and, providing they play a spinner, England's starting line-up will be permuted from Darren Gough, Angus Fraser, Dominic Cork and Alan Mullally - which leaves Dan Headley, Ed Giddins or the perennially unashamed Andy Caddick in reserve.

Headley, who bowled well in Australia on a recent A tour, is probably favourite, while Caddick troubled the Australian run-machine, Steve Waugh, more than anyone last summer with his high action.

Partnering Robert Croft with another spinner is not nearly so

straightforward. In the wake of Ian Salisbury's timid performances in the last three Tests, it looks as if Phil Tufnell, a disappointment since the Oval Test last year, will be selected by default. Australia, too, have a dearth of quality spinners, though not as serious a shortage as England, who have 12 more first-class sides.

If Tufnell does go, he will not be able to resort so easily to his favoured defensive measure of bowing over the wicket into the rough outside the right-hander's leg stump. The ICC have brought in a new regulation, giving the umpires power to call wide in such circumstances, and if England plan to use their spinners mainly as a defensive measure, they may be better off tak-

ing the more level-headed but less talented Ashley Giles.

With no cross-fertilisation between the Ashes and the other main squads - the one-day party to Bangladesh and the A team tour to Zimbabwe and South Africa - a lot of names are due to be announced at Lord's this morning. Presumably that is one of the reasons why the England and Wales Cricket Board employ Simon Pack, a former Nato commander to organise and deploy them. That and his ability to call up a gunboat or two, should the colonials prove too frosty.

**PROXY ASHES PARTY** A.J. Stewart (capt), M. Adams, M. Butcher, N. Hussain (vice-capt), G.P. Thorpe, M. Ramprakash, J. Crawley, W. Hegg, R.D. Croft, P.C. Tufnell, D.G. Cork, A. Giddins, A. Mullally, A. Pringle, R. Headley, J. Tufnell.

## Lloyd insult just adds to the injury

DAVID LLOYD, the England coach, has shown yet again that he is a dreadful loser. When Muttiah Muralitharan took the first two England wickets on Sunday evening and turned the ball a long way, it was clear that there was every chance that he would win this Test match.

At the press conference at the end of the fourth day Lloyd made a thinly veiled accusation about the legality of Muralitharan's action. He had put the excuse in place in case England lost and it was all done so graciously that it took one back to Bulawayo in Zimbabwe before Christmas in 1996.

England had failed to win the first Test then and at the end the scores were level and England had wickets in hand. Lloyd's catchphrase then was: "We murdered 'em", which he shouted, sometimes with the minimum of charm, at anyone he encountered immediately after the game was over.

He appears to be unable to control himself when England are on the receiving end of it. His remarks now have forced the Sri Lankan board to issue a statement that it has complained to the ECB. Thilianga Sumathipala, the president of the Sri Lankan board, who made the statement, reiterated that Muralitharan's action has been cleared after a close examination by the ICC. It is a matter of fact that he has a double-jointed wrist and that there is an 11 degree deformity in his right elbow, which he can not straighten.

In the circumstances, Lloyd has let himself and the England team down by not being able to control himself. How much better it would have been for him to have commented quietly through the official channels. Instead of which he has drawn attention to himself and the side and he has been seen to have acted as a crybaby. One finds it hard to believe that, in these days of super slow-motion cameras, the ICC has not reached the right decision about Muralitharan's action.

After Sri Lanka's complaint, the ECB will surely have to take action over Lloyd's outburst. He received a substantial slap on the wrist after the Zimbabwean affair and the authorities will now have to decide between a yellow and a red card.

One undoubted side effect, judging from the response that has apparently come over from this from Australia, is that the incident will be exploited to the full during the England tour. Lloyd will realise then that he has made a rod for his own back and, sadly, one for the side's as well. Why does he not think before launching into these outbursts, which can only be counterproductive?

**HENRY BLOFELD**  
AT THE OVAL

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Muttiah Muralitharan bowls to England's Darren Gough at The Oval yesterday

David Ashdown

### RACING RESULTS

**EPSOM**  
2.05 (1st nursery)  
1. RELATIVE SHADE M Roberts 11-4  
2. SCHILLER .....N Callan 4-1 Fav  
3. 1st Novice Hurdle .....P. H. Morris 1-1  
Also ran: 6-1 Indian City; 6-1 Jack Goodman; 6-1 We're Lass; 11-1 Juarez (8th); 10-1 My Enemy; 6-1 Cyro (3rd); 16-1 Marchant; 10-1 Kiss Me Kate; 20-1 Missing You; 20-1 Mr. Right; 13-1 Run For Your Life; 13-1 Run hot; 19-1 4-1 runner boy; 8th; Cesare Reclusive; out of The Sheds, trained by Lord Honour, West Essex; for Gervase Ward, Wincanton; 1,100; £1,040 Dual forecast: £1,040 CSF; £1,024 Threestakes: £1,033

2.20 (1st handicap)  
1. REPERTORY .....R Price 14-1 Fav  
2. Alman .....S Righton 9-1 Fav  
3. Tedes .....J. Webb 10-1 Fav  
Also ran: 10-1 Co-Partnership; 14-1 4th; 13-1 5th; 12-1 Double Fantasy; 12-1 White Emerald; 14-1 Broadstairs Beauty; 16-1 Its All Relative; 10-1 Arunghy; 12-1 4th; 11-1 5th; 10-1 6th; 10-1 7th; 10-1 8th; 10-1 9th; 10-1 10th; 10-1 11th; 10-1 12th; 10-1 13th; 10-1 14th; 10-1 15th; 10-1 16th; 10-1 17th; 10-1 18th; 10-1 19th; 10-1 20th; 10-1 21st; 10-1 22nd; 10-1 23rd; 10-1 24th; 10-1 25th; 10-1 26th; 10-1 27th; 10-1 28th; 10-1 29th; 10-1 30th; 10-1 31st; 10-1 32nd; 10-1 33rd; 10-1 34th; 10-1 35th; 10-1 36th; 10-1 37th; 10-1 38th; 10-1 39th; 10-1 40th; 10-1 41st; 10-1 42nd; 10-1 43rd; 10-1 44th; 10-1 45th; 10-1 46th; 10-1 47th; 10-1 48th; 10-1 49th; 10-1 50th; 10-1 51st; 10-1 52nd; 10-1 53rd; 10-1 54th; 10-1 55th; 10-1 56th; 10-1 57th; 10-1 58th; 10-1 59th; 10-1 60th; 10-1 61st; 10-1 62nd; 10-1 63rd; 10-1 64th; 10-1 65th; 10-1 66th; 10-1 67th; 10-1 68th; 10-1 69th; 10-1 70th; 10-1 71st; 10-1 72nd; 10-1 73rd; 10-1 74th; 10-1 75th; 10-1 76th; 10-1 77th; 10-1 78th; 10-1 79th; 10-1 80th; 10-1 81st; 10-1 82nd; 10-1 83rd; 10-1 84th; 10-1 85th; 10-1 86th; 10-1 87th; 10-1 88th; 10-1 89th; 10-1 90th; 10-1 91st; 10-1 92nd; 10-1 93rd; 10-1 94th; 10-1 95th; 10-1 96th; 10-1 97th; 10-1 98th; 10-1 99th; 10-1 100th; 10-1 101st; 10-1 102nd; 10-1 103rd; 10-1 104th; 10-1 105th; 10-1 106th; 10-1 107th; 10-1 108th; 10-1 109th; 10-1 110th; 10-1 111th; 10-1 112th; 10-1 113th; 10-1 114th; 10-1 115th; 10-1 116th; 10-1 117th; 10-1 118th; 10-1 119th; 10-1 120th; 10-1 121st; 10-1 122nd; 10-1 123rd; 10-1 124th; 10-1 125th; 10-1 126th; 10-1 127th; 10-1 128th; 10-1 129th; 10-1 130th; 10-1 131st; 10-1 132nd; 10-1 133rd; 10-1 134th; 10-1 135th; 10-1 136th; 10-1 137th; 10-1 138th; 10-1 139th; 10-1 140th; 10-1 141st; 10-1 142nd; 10-1 143rd; 10-1 144th; 10-1 145th; 10-1 146th; 10-1 147th; 10-1 148th; 10-1 149th; 10-1 150th; 10-1 151st; 10-1 152nd; 10-1 153rd; 10-1 154th; 10-1 155th; 10-1 156th; 10-1 157th; 10-1 158th; 10-1 159th; 10-1 160th; 10-1 161st; 10-1 162nd; 10-1 163rd; 10-1 164th; 10-1 165th; 10-1 166th; 10-1 167th; 10-1 168th; 10-1 169th; 10-1 170th; 10-1 171st; 10-1 172nd; 10-1 173rd; 10-1 174th; 10-1 175th; 10-1 176th; 10-1 177th; 10-1 178th; 10-1 179th; 10-1 180th; 10-1 181st; 10-1 182nd; 10-1 183rd; 10-1 184th; 10-1 185th; 10-1 186th; 10-1 187th; 10-1 188th; 10-1 189th; 10-1 190th; 10-1 191st; 10-1 192nd; 10-1 193rd; 10-1 194th; 10-1 195th; 10-1 196th; 10-1 197th; 10-1 198th; 10-1 199th; 10-1 200th; 10-1 201st; 10-1 202nd; 10-1 203rd; 10-1 204th; 10-1 205th; 10-1 206th; 10-1 207th; 10-1 208th; 10-1 209th; 10-1 210th; 10-1 211th; 10-1 212th; 10-1 213th; 10-1 214th; 10-1 215th; 10-1 216th; 10-1 217th; 10-1 218th; 10-1 219th; 10-1 220th; 10-1 221st; 10-1 222nd; 10-1 223rd; 10-1 224th; 10-1 225th; 10-1 226th; 10-1 227th; 10-1 228th; 10-1 229th; 10-1 230th; 10-1 231st; 10-1 232nd; 10-1 233rd; 10-1 234th; 10-1 235th; 10-1 236th; 10-1 237th; 10-1 238th; 10-1 239th; 10-1 240th; 10-1 241st; 10-1 242nd; 10-1 243rd; 10-1 244th; 10-1 245th; 10-1 246th; 10-1 247th; 10-1 248th; 10-1 249th; 10-1 250th; 10-1 251st; 10-1 252nd; 10-1 253rd; 10-1 254th; 10-1 255th; 10-1 256th; 10-1 257th; 10-1 258th; 10-1 259th; 10-1 260th; 10-1 261st; 10-1 262nd; 10-1 263rd; 10-1 264th; 10-1 265th; 10-1 266th; 10-1 267th; 10-1 268th; 10-1 269th; 10-1 270th; 10-1 271st; 10-1 272nd; 10-1 273rd; 10-1 274th; 10-1 275th; 10-1 276th; 10-1 277th; 10-1 278th; 10-1 279th; 10-1 280th; 10-1 281st; 10-1 282nd; 10-1 283rd; 10-1 284th; 10-1 285th; 10-1 286th; 10-1 287th; 10-1 288th; 10-1 289th; 10-1 290th; 10-1 291st; 10-1 292nd; 10-1 293rd; 10-1 294th; 10-1 295th; 10-1 296th; 10-1 297th; 10-1 298th; 10-1 299th; 10-1 300th; 10-1 301st; 10-1 302nd; 10-1 303rd; 10-1 304th; 10-1 305th; 10-1 306th; 10-1 307th; 10-1 308th; 10-1 309th; 10-1 310th; 10-1 311th; 10-1 312th; 10-1 313th; 10-1 314th; 10-1 315th; 10-1 316th; 10-1 317th; 10-1 318th; 10-1 319th; 10-1 320th; 10-1 321st; 10-1 322nd; 10-1 323rd; 10-1 324th; 10-1 325th; 10-1 326th; 10-1 327th; 10-1 328th; 10-1 329th; 10-1 330th; 10-1 331st; 10-1 332nd; 10-1 333rd; 10-1 334th; 10-1 335th; 10-1 336th; 10-1 337th; 10-1 338th; 10-1 339th; 10-1 340th; 10-1 341st; 10-1 342nd; 10-1 343rd; 10-1 344th; 10-1 345th; 10-1 346th; 10-1 347th; 10-1 348th; 10-1 349th; 10-1 350th; 10-1 351st; 10-1 352nd; 10-1 353rd; 10-1 354th; 10-1 355th; 10-1 356th; 10-1 357th; 10-1 358th; 10-1 359th; 10-1 360th; 10-1 361st; 10-1 362nd; 10-1 363rd; 10-1 364th; 10-1 365th; 10-1 366th; 10-1 367th; 10-1 368th; 10-1 369th; 10-1 370th; 10-1 371st; 10-1 372nd; 10-1 373rd; 10-1 374th; 10-1 375th; 10-1 376th; 10-1 377th; 10-1 378th; 10-1 379th; 10-1 380th; 10-1 381st; 10-1 382nd; 10-1 383rd; 10-1 384th; 10-1 385th; 10-1 386th; 10-

# Parlour games strictly limited

**Arsenal midfielder drinks at the right time as he dreams of a career to remember.** By Norman Fox

RAY PARLOUR reckons that Arsenal's manager, Arsène Wenger (who always gives the impression of having just finished a thesis on something a lot more serious than the merits of a flat back four) is a "great guy, with a great sense of humour".

Well, he would. After all, Wenger has kept him in the team in spite of Highbury's foreign imports. But Parlour adds that it is Wenger who has also kept him in the reckoning for England, with whom he is training again this week.

The summer has been lonely for Arsenal's once unruly midfield player. Omitted from Glenn Hoddle's World Cup squad, he just watched the games on television "getting involved, but not getting involved, if you see what I mean". In the past when he and Tony Adams used to drink without thought of tomorrow, he would have used Hoddle's rejection as an excuse for excess. This year, mainly, he says, because of Wenger's quiet influence, he simply kept fit and optimistic.

Parlour admits that at times being a senior Arsenal player without an international cap is



Arsenal's Ray Parlour sits out yesterday's England training session at Bisham Abbey because of a leg injury

## Kavanagh shatters stubborn Colchester

STOKE CITY stretched their lead at the top of the Second Division to four points with a 1-1 win at Colchester. But Brian Little's side were made to work hard to maintain their 100 per cent record as the Essex side refused to concede anything in defence.

Colchester's hopes were dashed when Graham Kavanagh scored Stoke's winner 12 minutes from full time.

Fulham are in second place after a 1-1 draw at Oldham. Paul Moody gave Kevin Keegan's side the 50th-minute lead, but Mark Allott equalised for the struggling hosts.

There was plenty of drama at Deepdale, where Preston moved into third place with a 2-0 win over Chesterfield. But the celebrations after goals from Jason Harris (66) and Ryan Kidd (84) were cut short by the sendings-off of Sean Gregan for Preston and Jason Lee for the visitors - both for two bookable offences.

Wycombe Wanderers, struggling at the foot of the table, were grateful for a last-minute equaliser from Danny Bulman after Barry Hayles' 84th-minute goal had appeared to give Bristol Rovers their first away win of the campaign.

Bulman's strike was enough to win the Adams Park club a point after they had lost all four opening matches.

Luton were indebted to Steve Davis for a 3-1 win at Wigan. The defender cleared a Stuart Barlow shot from his own goal line and scored Luton's opener three minutes before the break.

Barlow, the former Everton striker, netted a 62nd-minute equaliser, but two goals in two minutes from Shaun Evers and veteran Phil Gray ensured victory.

Macclesfield continue to struggle at the foot of the table. Ian Hendon's 30-yard free-kick earned the points for Notts County as Sammy McIlroy's Moss Rose side still search for their first win of the campaign.

The former Chelsea forward Clive Walker became the first man to score 100 League goals and 100 goals in non-League football when he hit Cheltenham Town's opener in the 16th minute of their game against Barrow in the Football Conference yesterday. Cheltenham eventually ran out 4-1 winners.

## McCoist in line to start

BY SIMON BUCKLAND

CRAIG BROWN, the Scotland coach, indicated yesterday that Ally McCoist could start Saturday's international against Lithuania. The 35-year-old forced himself into the squad for the opening Euro 2000 qualifying match with a hat-trick for Kilmarnock against Heart of Midlothian on Sunday.

Having selected only 21 players Brown had a place to fill in the party - and McCoist was swiftly invited on Sunday night, such is Brown's concern at his shortage of firepower.

Now there is the real prospect of McCoist joining Kevin Gallacher from the outset in Vilnius with Brown tempted to opt for the in-form veteran with 59 caps and 19 international goals to his name.

The national coach said: "I expect Lithuania to defend deep, much as Hearts did on Sunday, and to my mind that will suit Ally's game. I would honestly say he is as good, if not better, than those other players under consideration for the front role."

With McCoist's former Ibrox colleague Gordon Durie ruled out because of ankle ligament damage, McCoist has few rivals in attack.

Brown rates the Lithuanians highly, suggesting they are the best of the Baltic states, and, by his own admission, McCoist could prove the "quick fix" he needs to do the job required.

Brown followed the inclusion of McCoist with a further change yesterday, this time forced upon him because of injuries.

Blackburn's Billy McKinlay and David Hopkin of Leeds have withdrawn from the travelling group because of fitness problems. That has prompted Brown to promote Rangers 20-year-old midfielder Barry Ferguson from the Under-21 squad.

Ferguson was instrumental in Rangers' emphatic 4-0 win against St Johnstone on Saturday. Brown said: "Barry was very close to being selected in the original squad, although I didn't think he would start the game as we had experienced provision in McKinlay and Hopkin."

"The Under-21 team have a difficult game and obviously want to qualify, so their coach, Tommy Craig, will be tearing his hair out at losing Barry."

In an angry broadside against the New Zealand management of the 2000 America's Cup, the International Sailing Federation (ISAF) president Paul Henderson said yesterday: "It has steered the ISAF's resolve with regard to the America's Cup and the fact that they (the AC competitors) must support the broad base of racing sailing by funding the services the ISAF provide."

Heddersoos is particularly upset by a statement from Team New Zealand's director, Tom Schenckenberg, saying that the America's Cup should charge the ISAF for promoting sailing. The ISAF president feels a confrontation over who runs the sport, as happened in golf, is "fast approaching" and suggests the ISAF might seek to ban competitors from taking part in other events, which includes the demand for about \$65,000 per AC syndicate to be paid to the ISAF if the issue is not settled.

## Platt sets the right example

## Rijkaard revealed as the new Dutch national coach

### NETHERLANDS

JUST LIKE Ruud Gullit, his former colleague in the great Dutch national team of the 1980s, Frank Rijkaard is this week taking on what may well be the greatest challenge of his career.

While Gullit has the responsibility of restoring the on-field reputation of Newcastle United, Rijkaard has the fortunes of more than just a club side to worry about. Yesterday the former Milan and Ajax midfielder was named as the new coach of the Dutch national team.

It is the 35-year-old Rijkaard's first coaching appointment. Since his retirement from playing in 1995 he has spent more time building up a business trading in ladies' underwear than working in football.

He only returned to the game to work as an assistant to his predecessor as national coach, Guus Hiddink (who has moved on to take charge of Real Madrid), at this year's World Cup in France.

Rijkaard will coach the side until the European Championship in 2000 in Belgium and the Netherlands, with an option to



### AROUND THE WORLD

BY RUPERT METCALF

extend his contract for another two years. Johan Neeskens, 46, will be his assistant. He was also one of Hiddink's assistants in France, where the team reached the World Cup semi-finals.

Rijkaard and Neeskens have both taken the Dutch Football Association's fast-track coaches' course for former internationals, along with Gullit and Ronald Koeman, who had been another of Hiddink's assistants at the World Cup but is now No 2 at Barcelona. The Dutch FA

is believed to have approached Johan Cruyff and the former Celtic manager, Wim Jansen, before opting for Rijkaard.

### SPAIN

BARCELONA MANAGED to sign the former Ajax striker Patrick Kluivert, a summer transfer target for both Arsenal and Manchester United, from Milan before Friday's Spanish League transfer deadline, but they failed to land the two Dutch internationals they have been pursuing all summer.

Louis van Gaal, the former Ajax coach now in charge at Barcelona, has been chasing the De Boer brothers, Frank and Ronald, but has been unable to persuade the Amsterdam club to release them from their long-term contracts.

However, it may not be long before the brothers join the Catalan side. There is a transfer window in the Spanish season in December, and on Sunday Frank de Boer said: "There are two possible solutions. Either we play with Ajax until December and then go to Barcelona, or we stay at Ajax the whole season and then

brought Bradford so many points during their unstoppable march last year. Apparently he held near the line, the bookie wrestled his way out of the tackle and forced his way into the McNamara's eighth goal completing the scoring.

The win puts Bradford four points ahead of London and Sheffield in fifth place and only a major disaster can stop them qualifying for the play-offs now. It will take a far more convincing performance than this to take them any further, though, and Matthew Elliott, their coach, will know that there is much work to be done at Olds if they are to have any chance of hanging on to their crown.

Bradford: Spruce, Vallona, McAvoy, Bradley, Smith, Parker, Jackson, McDonald, Lowe, Harmon, Forrester, Davies, McNamara. Substitutes: used: Fielden, Howard, Doherty, Edwards, Mullane, Wells; Orr, Ford; Sampson, Russell, McNeil, Harland, Smith, Vowles. Substitutes unused: Chapman, Schild, Sykes, Flowers. Referee: S Cummings (Wales).

With six minutes to play, Lowes produced another reprise of the repertoire that

out wide and to wipe out their old selves, they would have made short work of a moderate Castleford side.

Even with their latest reinforcement, Harvey Howard, in their line-up, however, Bradford made hard work of what should have been a routine win.

Castelford's handling was deplorable in the early stages, but they were allowed to settle into the game and a modicum of grit and determination were sufficient to bring them right back into contention.

A penalty from Danny Orr got them moving and then Spruce and John Scales both failed to clear Mike Ford's kick and Orr arrived to claim a try, which he converted to bring Cas within two points.

A penalty against Dean Sampson, for holding down Bernard Dwyer, gave McNamara his 600th point for the club, but Castleford had their chances early in the second half to stretch Bradford

brought Bradford so many points during their unstoppable march last year. Apparently he held near the line, the bookie wrestled his way out of the tackle and forced his way into the McNamara's eighth goal completing the scoring.

The win puts Bradford four points ahead of London and Sheffield in fifth place and only a major disaster can stop them qualifying for the play-offs now. It will take a far more convincing performance than this to take them any further, though, and Matthew Elliott, their coach, will know that there is much work to be done at Olds if they are to have any chance of hanging on to their crown.

Bradford: Spruce, Vallona, McAvoy, Bradley, Smith, Parker, Jackson, McDonald, Lowe, Harmon, Forrester, Davies, McNamara. Substitutes: used: Fielden, Howard, Doherty, Edwards, Mullane, Wells; Orr, Ford; Sampson, Russell, McNeil, Harland, Smith, Vowles. Substitutes unused: Chapman, Schild, Sykes, Flowers. Referee: S Cummings (Wales).

"Nine on a wire has really

## Peters wins Ultra title

SAILING

BY STUART ALEXANDER

WITHE A race to spare, Russell Peters won the 1998 Ultra 30 Grand Prix circuit in Guernsey yesterday. Only two people have won the Ultra series in its nine-year history, Lawrie Smith having taken all the other titles, except in 1995, when Peters pipped him for the only time.

This year there have been only three regattas, the others at Portsmouth and Cardiff, and Smith has been absent, sojourning in Ireland after driving Silk Cut in the last Whitbread Race.

So Peters, a dinghy champion in Fireflies International 14s and team racing, was able to get DBS back in front in a year which has seen the introduction of wire trapezes for all nine of the crew, in addition to racks on which to lean out.

"Nine on a wire has really

livened things up," said Peters in St Peter Port yesterday. "Everyone had sorted out how to sail these difficult boats and this provided a new dimension. Not least, the closing speeds are much faster and quicker thinking is required. It looks spectacular on television, but it's a bit frightening and more difficult for the helmsman."

In an angry broadside against the New Zealand management of the 2000 America's Cup, the International Sailing Federation (ISAF) president Paul Henderson said yesterday: "It has steered the ISAF's resolve with regard to the America's Cup and the fact that they (the AC competitors) must support the broad base of racing sailing by funding the services the ISAF provide."

Heddersoos is particularly upset by a statement from Team New Zealand's director, Tom Schenckenberg, saying that the America's Cup should charge the ISAF for promoting sailing. The ISAF president feels a confrontation over who runs the sport, as happened in golf, is "fast approaching" and suggests the ISAF might seek to ban competitors from taking part in other events, which includes the demand for about \$65,000 per AC syndicate to be paid to the ISAF if the issue is not settled.

RENTFORD YESTERDAY went to the top of the Third Division with a 2-1 victory over Rochdale at Griffin Park. Darren Powell scored within 90 seconds, but the visitors were unfortunate not to earn their second away win of the campaign after Isidro Diaz's 17th-minute equaliser.

Rochdale enjoyed most of the possession in the second period but Kevin Rapley's 71st-minute goal sealed the game.

Plymouth Argyle leapfrogged over Halifax Town after their 2-0 win over the Shaymen at Home Park. Paul Gibbs' strike three minutes before half-time was sufficient.

Gustavo Di Lella dispatched Hull to their third defeat of the season with the only goal of the match at Hartlepools, sending the home side into fifth place.

Barnet jumped 11 places after their 2-0 victory at Shrewsbury Goals from Billy Manuel and Ken Charlery lifted the club off the foot of the table. Scunthorpe moved up to sixth after defeating Swansea at Vetch Field. Julian Alsop had set up the home side for only their second win of the season but late goals from John Eyn (penalty) and Jamie Foster turned the table.

Brighton moved into the top half of the table thanks to their regular goal-scorers Jeff Minton and Gary Hart, who also scored on Saturday. Wayne Bullimore struck an 89th minute goal for Scarborough but it was too late.

Jimmy Quinn struck twice in two minutes in the first half for Peterborough to set up a 4-1 win over Exeter, who had taken the lead through Darren Rowbotham in the 19th minute at London Road. Leon McNaught and Andy Edwards added the icing.

Dartington notched their first home win of the season in the 3-0 win over Cardiff. Darren Roberts scored twice and Jason De Vos sealed the points.





# TUESDAY REVIEW

COMMENT • FEATURES • ARTS • LISTINGS • TELEVISION

# It's a disgrace

The vice-consul calls them 'depraved' while tabloids condemn their clubs as 'pornographic'.

Yes, thousands of young Brits on Ibiza are having the time of their lives. By Alister Morgan

**T**he British vice-consul on the Spanish island of Ibiza has resigned - shamed, he says, by the behaviour of young British tourists who go to the island in their thousands to party. "These degenerates are dragging us through the mud," said 51-year-old Michael Birkett. "These young people are out of control."

Ten years ago Ibiza's heady mix of sun, sex and dance music inspired visiting English promoters to create a comparable experience in the UK, and modern acid-house was born. In 1998 the UK's club industry continues to decline while Ibiza, boasting the biggest and best venues in the world, attracts more hedonists every year - 85 per cent of them British.

Essentially the same nocturnal activities that take place every weekend in towns and cities across Britain are mirrored on Ibiza, but the Spanish island acts like an amplifier, lending the experience a larger-than-life, open-all-hours quality. Ibiza follows its own, uniquely exaggerated programme. In the UK a Saturday night timetable might read as follows: 8pm, eat dinner; 9.30pm, meet for drink; 11pm, his nightclub; 4am, get taxi home; sleep until midday.

The Ibiza itinerary requires considerably higher levels of stamina. Midnight, meet for dinner; 12.30am, hit local bars; 2.30am, go to club; 3am, leave club; 3am, go to daytime club; 2pm, go back to hotel; crash until 10pm.

For thousands of clubbers it's a trip worth saving for (seven-day packages start from £140), and worth sleeping on a mate's floor or on the beach for a couple of weeks. It's a place where fellow believers fill the streets and the weekend never ends. But, of course, for others Ibiza represents Sodom and Gomorrah.

Fiona and Tricia from Hastings are both 17 years old and "Ibiza virgins" (the phrase refers to the fact that it's their first time on the island). "My friends came last year and kept saying that this was the best place in the world," says Tricia. They've pushed their way to the front of the crowd to watch Pete Tong at Café Mambo. The broadcast lasts several hours. They look tired but are still smiling. "This is the best place - the best place in the world!" Fiona agrees with her friend's assessment. "The people here are so friendly, and the clubs are amazing. We've been here two weeks already, so we're making the most of the few days we have left."

Both girls have boyfriends back in Hastings. They give the impression that the boys' absence hasn't exactly spoiled their holiday. "Tricia's snogged twice as many blokes as me," says Fiona. "I'm staying faithful - or at least I'm trying to."

They tell me that they'll be at the infamous Manumission club tonight. Radio 1 are continuing their live broadcasts there. "Watch out for us by the fountains."

That night at Manumission it's impossible to recognise anyone among the 8,000 people inside. With its fire-eaters, escapist and theatrically dressed ravers, Manumission feels more like a festival than a club. Radio 1 press personnel have been in a panic all day. The *Daily Mail* has run a story about two Manumission promoters and their infamous early-morning porn act.

"They [promoters Mike McKay and Claire Davies] perform depraved acts in front of thousands of strangers," the *Mail* reveals. "Radio 1 will broadcast a seven-hour marathon of live music from the club. Many might question whether it is an appropriate use

of licence-payers' money to promote an event whose reputation is founded almost entirely on pornography."

"The *Mail*'s piece was an insidious load of nonsense; they try to hold on to the self-restrained, old-style model of Britain," says the Radio 1 DJ Judge Jules. He's headlining tonight's gig at Manumission. "If they don't change soon, their readership will eventually die out because this generation aren't going to believe that bullshit - their values are meaningless to our generation."

For years

Jules was Kiss FM's headline house DJ, before Radio 1 bought him up last year. "It wasn't really a hard decision," he says. "I didn't join Radio 1 at a time when my music was fighting against the grain. They have a wholehearted belief in the importance of dance music and the associated culture, so there was no hesitation whatsoever."

Middle England may disapprove, but in fact the essential attraction for most of the British clubbers who flock to Ibiza every summer is familiarity. They know exactly what to expect: English-speaking Spaniards, 24-hour full English breakfast, *The Sun*, copious amounts of alcohol, English DJs, and other Brits.

Even after 10 years, the dance music phenomenon refuses to fade away. The vice-consul may feel shamed by the excesses of sun-drunk youth, but this is now mainstream youth culture. Just to prove it, from broadcasting only about three hours of specialist dance music a week in 1991, Radio 1's current output exceeds 30 hours. And Ibiza is an integral part of the wider youth culture.

Ibiza's increasing popularity persuades BBC Radio 1 to broadcast live, via ISDN links, from Ibiza for the first time earlier this month. The broadcast ran for three days and nights, featuring more than 35 DJs and live performances. It's not certain how many extra listeners the broadcast attracted, but the venture received energetic criticism from the *Daily Mail*, concerned for the moral safety of the nation's youth. Broadcasting from Ibiza was the logical progression of an ongoing cultural shift, aimed at attracting younger listeners.

As the station's headline DJ, Pete Tong, made his live *Essential Selection* broadcast from Ibiza's Café Mambo, hundreds of young people crowded onto the beach to listen. As the beach stretched away into clear blue sea, the sun beat down on hundreds of dancers.

Tong has been coming to Ibiza for around eight years, and made his first broadcast from the island two years ago. He has been instrumental in persuading Auntie to increase its involvement every year.

"Radio 1 didn't really realise what I did, or the im-



pact the music was able to have, when they hired me in 1991," says Tong, speaking after his beach broadcast. "I'd spent years travelling the country building up a reputation with the crowd. Specialist presenters must have that respect from the core audience, and now Radio 1 has got the best in the field."

"They wanted to re-justify the existence of the station, and reposition it to take risks and attract younger listeners. Three years ago I said, 'if you want to relate to your audience on that level then you should go on holiday with them and participate in their lives outside of the UK. There's no island in the world like Ibiza. No other place has the same set-up or infrastructure.'

Radio 1's rival station, Kiss FM, is also broadcasting from Ibiza, and also hopes to consolidate its position as a credible dance music station. A generation of clubbers has been ostracised, patronised and criticised by sections of society for years; their confidence is not easily won. Radio stations can buy credibility, up to a point, but clubbers know that while Pete Tong and Zoë Ball are both Radio 1 DJs, only one has any kudos to Ibiza's clubland.

As Manumission continues into the early hours of the morning, the ambiguity of Radio 1's position is comically highlighted. In a club famous for its sex shows, a giant screen flashes pornographic images on which Radio 1 has superimposed the message: "Annie Nightingale, LIVE IN THE BACK ROOM".

Nightingale is a Radio 1 DJ, but the *Daily Mail* could be forgiven for thinking otherwise.

M.Wilson

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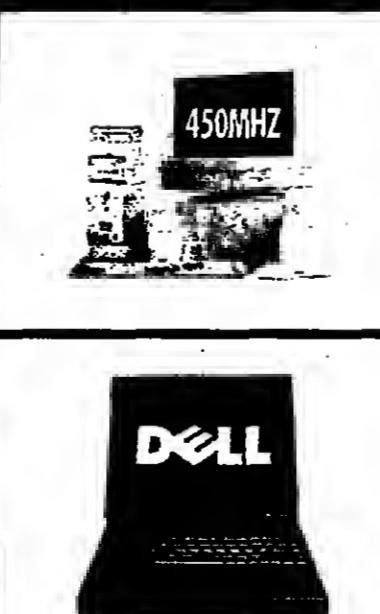
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JAVIC 150

**Stressed at work**

Sir: I welcome the proposal to make employers more aware of their responsibilities for the mental, as well as physical, health of their staff. Perhaps your leader writer who said that legislation "is going too far" (31 August) works in one of the few organisations in the UK that promote healthy working practices. Or are they sufficiently senior to off-load their pressures on to subordinates?

As a career counsellor I work with clients coping with career crises, or planning a change. Most of the crises are due to excessive workplace stress and personal life events. If the organisation is lucky they go sick before making a strategic error.

Many of those looking for changes are successful in their current careers. But they have decided that the costs of stress, frustration and excessive working hours to their health and family life are no longer acceptable. Senior managers, lawyers, accountants and teachers make up much of this group. They have earned sufficient savings to be able to afford to change. In many cases they are a serious loss to their organisations.

Most of the UK workforce do not have this option. They soldier on in many organisations until forced to give up when their health, family or both break down. These consequences cost the country thousands of pounds while the employer simply hires someone else.

Enlightened employers respect working time, set realistic tasks and targets, and recognise that private life events periodically overload the best employee. These healthy organisations achieve higher outputs from well-motivated and respected staff.

But the majority of UK organisations, including government itself, are potentially dangerous to the health and performance of staff. The prevailing US workaholic culture, driven by unachievable targets and control-culture managers is very inefficient. Short term targets are achieved at high cost to lives, families, careers and the state welfare budget.

DAI WILLIAMS

Woking, Surrey

Sir: A poster has recently appeared in the hospital department where I work. Entitled "How to deal with stress" and claiming to have been produced by the Health Promotion Department of Buckinghamshire Health Authority in 1996, it includes useful advice such as: "Don't be too ambitious" (picture of upturny wags clerk dreaming of being an accountant); "Be realistic; don't set too high standards for yourself" (exam student reminding herself that she doesn't need straight As); and "Distract yourself" (smiling man with closed eyes listening to a hi-fi through headphones).

No doubt the widespread adoption of these radical measures throughout NHS management will have a dramatic effect on waiting lists. Or perhaps it already has?

STEPHEN LOWE WATSON

Leeds, East Sussex

**Terror of a Bill**

Sir: You report that the so-called Terror Bill will provide that the uncorroborated evidence of a single individual (a policeman) will suffice to convict someone of being a member of a banned group. Such a provision must be absolutely contrary to the need for justice to be seen to be done. This part of the Bill will make very bad law and safe verdicts are very unlikely to result. It has the side-effect of converting the police into a prosecutorial service and makes the dissolution of the Royal Ulster Constabulary ever more likely.

The same Bill will make it an offence to plan to commit any criminal offence abroad. Such a measure could catch not only terrorists, and, as your political correspondent suggests (report, 31 August), paedophiles and bank robbers, but also intending football



Continuing our series on tourism in the capital, a visitor tries out a fancy hat from a street trader

John Vos

boogaloo planning to travel to overseas matches and "party animals" Ibiza-bound. The last do seem pretty wide of the ostensible mark - international terrorism.

FENTON F ROBB

Eyemouth, Berwickshire

**After the bombs**

Sir: As someone from a Muslim background and with a keen interest in Africa, I condemn the three bomb attacks in Dar es Salaam, Nairobi and Cape Town. Yet it seems that what is on the rise is not so much Islamic fundamentalism but anti-Muslim sentiment.

Islamic fundamentalism has not been able to establish credible or legitimate institutions anywhere; nor has it been able to reconcile ideology with socio-economic change and it cannot point to any successes in increasing national development or welfare anywhere.

Its one-time source of inspiration, Iran, no longer spouts the same rhetoric.

Bin Laden and people like him do not and will not enjoy Muslim support all over the world because Muslims are not a homogeneous lot bent on terror.

Yet issues are easily Islamised and the anti-Muslim acceptable form of prejudice. This is a great mistake as the real threat to global peace resides elsewhere.

Global economic and political processes are marginalising parts of the world. Countries which are not on the development train may well produce forces which are anti-modern and anti-development and which espouse fundamentalist visions.

The way to prevent these developments will not be by demonising people and bombing them or by supporting agents of exclusiveness like Netanyahu's Israel. Rather, the self-appointed

policeman of the world, the USA, needs to promote itself to detective status and identify paths to a more inclusive world.

SHAFTUR RAHMAN

Cambridge

Sir: Could someone please explain why the two Nairobi bombing suspects are being tried in the United States and not Kenya, where the crime they are accused of took place ("Nairobi 'bombers' flown to New York", 28 August)?

If the Kenyan embassy in Washington had been bombed, killing two hundred Americans and 12 Kenyan diplomats, and if Kenya had a law on its statute books giving it the right to exact retribution anywhere in the world, would the culprits have

been sent to face justice in Kenya?

J M BUDD

Manningtree, Essex

Sir: US cruise missiles hit Khartoum shortly before the 100th anniversary of the Battle of Omdurman (2 September 1898), when British and Egyptian soldiers defeated an Islamic movement which had, among other things, substituted slave raids and pillaging for governance in South Sudan. One hundred years on, there are some parallels, but cruise missiles will merely exacerbate the fundamental problem that gives rise to the misery in Sudan today.

Until all parties to the civil war are held to their agreement to cease fire for an interim period, so that a referendum can be held to ask southerners what they want, the misery will continue. Britain sold the southerners down the river in 1954, but could now give substance to an ethical foreign policy by convening a conference to agree and establish ceasefire and referendum arrangements.

A government which has experienced the Northern Ireland peace process, which is a permanent member of the Security Council and which descends from the imperial power which created the modern Sudan could surely try to overcome this hurdle in order to bring about a peaceful settlement.

PHILIP WINTER

Nairobi

Sirs: Your correspondents (letters, 27, 28 August) do not seem capable of distinguishing the chasm between the political patronage and cronyism of Bernie Ecclestone or Derek Draper and the open honesty of Paul Sykes and Sir James Goldsmith.

Paul Sykes is seeking to represent the views of over 60 per cent of the population who are against the single currency and who through their taxes are funding a government campaign they don't agree with. By establishing single issue campaigns to raise public awareness, Sykes and Goldsmith augment the democratic process by stimulating debate.

DOUGLAS ELLISON

London SE3

Sir: Your leading article of 29 August suggest that the political role of the Crown could be exercised by the Speaker of the House of Commons. Even in recent years the Speaker has been accused, however unjustifiably, of bias towards the party to which he or she once belonged. The Swedes have already vested more power in the Speaker of the Riksdag. The role has become politicised. There is much to be said for the referee never having been a member of either team.

DONALD FOREMAN

Secretary

*The Constitutional Monarchy Association*

London E4

Sir: Glenda Cooper's article

"Mad dows and dreamy spires" (27 August) reminded me of the old tale of an elderly Oxford don who had failed miserably to come to terms with the presence of female students at his lectures. No matter how many women were

present, he would always commence his lectures with the word "Gentlemen".

One day he arrived to find the lecture hall full of women. There was only one male student present. Grasping his gown with both hands he took a deep breath. "Sir..."

JAMES W BROWNE

London WC1

Sir: When working on the drawings for the Time Life building in 1952, I remember hearing a tale from one of the small posse that went down to St Ives to commission Ben Nicholson ("Henry Moore sent back to his office", 28 August). When told that the client had only half the money he was asking for a mural to cover the whole wall, which is what we all hoped for, he offered to paint them one half the size. This, sadly, was agreed.

GODFREY ELLIS MILES

Stamford, Lincolnshire

Dr Monica Furlough writes: Talk about that a lot. Say: "We had a really good time at Heathrow, though..." Tell people all about your experiences.

You're joking, surely?

Dr Monica Furlough writes: Keep telling people how much better things were in the country you've been to. Show them your pictures. Ask them over and over again if they got your postcard.

But what if you didn't send them a postcard?

Dr Monica Furlough writes: All the more necessary. If you didn't send someone a postcard, you must make them believe that you did. Tell them about the food, the hotel, the trip, the nice people you met from Staffordshire...

**Tougher GCSEs**

Sir Michael McMahon appears to disparage the achievements of GCSE history students. ("Standards are slipping", 28 August) and suggests that little historical knowledge is required in order to pass GCSE history:

There has this year been a marked departure by examination boards from the interpretation of source-based material towards examinations which require a formidable amount of contextual knowledge and understanding.

The history papers (Edexcel, syllabus A) which my GCSE students sat in June were quite astounding in the breadth and depth of knowledge and understanding expected. Paper 1 required a detailed knowledge of Soviet-American relations between Yalta and Potsdam 1944-45, Berlin 1948, Hungary, Cuba and extending through to the Gorbachev era. They then had to demonstrate their knowledge of the "impact war" has had on Britain 1900-1930, which involved such issues as alcohol consumption, pacifism, electoral reform, the foundation of the welfare state, and even an intimate knowledge of the 1944 Education Act. All without notes, prompts or guidance.

Paper 2 required an in-depth knowledge of Nazi Germany and the Vietnam War. Coursework (25 per cent of the GCSE) was assigned to two other unrelated topics. My students, of all abilities, (attending an inner London comprehensive) study nine other subjects.

I was lucky. I took my O-Levels at around the time Mr McMahon sat his. Five or six subjects was often then the norm. My history O-Level required a fairly straightforward and compact knowledge of Roman Britain - and there was a considerable degree of choice on the question paper. Standards and expectations have over the years been significantly raised.

DAVID CARVER

London SE6

**Unfair votes**

Sir: Lord Parkinson asserts ("Right of Reply", 26 August) that

"Independent research suggests that our electoral system is more proportional than any form of PR." Did that research cover the result of the 1951 general election in which Labour received most votes but the Tories won more seats and formed the government? Or the 1974 result when the Tories received most votes but Labour won more seats and formed the government? Or even the 1997 general election when the Liberal Democrats got 12 per cent of the votes in Scotland and won 10 seats, against the Conservatives' 17 per cent of Scottish votes but no seats?

The looming anti-PR alliance between the Conservatives and Old Labour is interesting. What is not surprising is the reactionary attitude of the Tory Party. They opposed the last major electoral reform - votes for women. JOHN PALMER Waterloo, Hampshire

Sir: Cecil Parkinson argues against any change of the voting system on the grounds that PR leads to deals being stitched together by parties and politicians choosing who is in power. Does he have in mind a Tory government losing its majority through by-elections, floor-crossings and withdrawing the whip from Euro-rebels, and then having to make a deal with the Ulster Unionists?

The assumption that a change in the voting system would lead to a hung parliament is wrong. In the 1997 election the Alternative Vote would have led to Labour having a much larger majority than they enjoy at present, and even the Single Transferable Vote would lead to a small Labour majority.

Governments, even coalition ones, have to face the electorate. If people do not want a Labour/Liberal Democrat coalition then the obvious response is to vote Conservative.

GRAHAM RICHARD POINTER

St Andrews, Fife

**Tense? Blue? Bad tempered? You must have had a holiday**

THIS IS a time of year when people are suffering from PHT (Post Holiday Tension). This is a sort of tension caused by just having come back from holiday and, well... Look. I've only just come back from my holidays and I'm suffering from it too, so if you don't mind I'll hand over the column today to someone who specialises in the condition. Dr Monica Furlough, so we can all benefit from her advice, and I can come back refreshed tomorrow. All yours, Mon!

This PHT thing - how do I know if I've got it?

Dr Monica Furlough writes: If you have just come back from holiday, you'll know if you've got it all right. The symptoms are: disorientation, bad temper, inability to remember your pets' names, disbelief

that your house hasn't burnt down, forgetfulness (as to where the butter is kept etc), regret that you aren't still on holiday, regret that you didn't go to the place you wanted the year before, tendency to find stubs of airline boarding cards in odd pockets, tendency to find house smaller than your remembered, tendency of the plants in your garden that you don't like to have grown three feet in your absence, inability to remember why you have come back, inability to remember which day you go back to work, or if you have a job, or what it involved...

Hold on, hold on - I thought holidays were supposed to get you relaxed and bring you back rested! Dr Monica Furlough writes: Oh, come on! Holidays are one of the major causes of stress in modern life. Someone once said that the amount of organisation and planning that goes into a perfect holiday is the same amount as needed for a small Gulf War.

Very true. Who was it?

Dr Monica Furlough writes: Me.

And is the cure for PHT the same as that for a small military operation?

Dr Monica Furlough writes: You mean, should you have church services and war crime tribunals and parades of thanksgiving when you come back from holiday? Well, holidays aren't quite that serious, although it would certainly be tempting to place certain hotel proprietors on trial for their life after certain holiday experiences.



MILES KINGTON

Tell them about the food, the hotel, the trip, the nice people you met from Staffordshire...

So what should we do about PHT? Dr Monica Furlough writes: The most important thing is not to

snap back straightaway into everyday life. You know, athletes always warm up before a race, but afterwards they always warm down again. They have to make a gradual transition from physical exertion, otherwise their muscles will suffer. Same with holidays. Come down slowly.

What does that mean in practice? Dr Monica Furlough writes: It means you should wear holiday clothes for a day or two. Keep to shorts, if you were wearing shorts. Ski clothes, if it was a skiing holiday. Talk about your holiday a lot. Tell people where you have been and how great it was...

But what if the only good bit was relaxing in Heathrow and buying duty-free?

Dr Monica Furlough writes: Talk about that a lot. Say: "We had a really good time at Heathrow, though..." Tell people all about your experiences.

You're joking, surely?

Dr Monica Furlough writes: Keep telling people how much better things were in the country you've been to. Show them your pictures. Ask them over and over again if they got your postcard.

But what if you didn't send them a postcard?

Dr Monica Furlough writes: All the more necessary. If you didn't send someone a postcard, you must make them believe that you did. Tell them about the food, the hotel, the trip, the nice people you met from Staffordshire...

But you'll lose all your friends if you do that! Nobody will talk to you for a week!

Dr Monica Furlough writes: That's the whole idea! What I forgot to mention was that the people who suffer most from Post-Holiday Tension are not those who come back from holiday - it's the people who haven't gone away and have to put up with the return of the holidaymakers! My treatment guarantees that you will be ostracised, which will give the sufferers at home a chance of quarantine from you!

Miles Kington writes: I'll be back tomorrow with my holiday snaps, an account of my best meals in France, and a story about a really funny couple from Norfolk we met on the boat.

SPY IN SPAIN

# THE INDEPENDENT

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## The American president can still make a difference

WHAT DOES one say about today's meeting of Presidents Bill Clinton and Boris Yeltsin - two discredited leaders propping each other up as they desperately seek to get to the finishing line of the Millennium?

The White House must be wishing that it had never pencilled in the summit for 1 September as a means of bringing Clinton back on the world stage after his holiday. Even Moscow is embarrassed by having some 400 US journalists and half the State Department descend on it for a meeting that can now only show just how far they have slipped from superstar status.

The last time an oversexed President met an overimbibing President was when JF Kennedy met with Nikita Kruschev for an ill-fated embrace which was to lead directly to Cuba and Moscow's miscalculation of the new American President's resolve. This time, no one really expects any results. Those days are gone because political leaders no longer have very much real power over global affairs. The markets, and underlying forces, have taken over and just at the moment they are making things very difficult indeed in Russia.

The country is not in the position to do what the Hong Kong authorities have been spending nearly \$10bn trying to do: sustain the currency and squeeze the speculators. Nor would anyone advise them to do so. The IMF has no funds for further aid. Nor would the US Congress sanction the Federal Government to increase its assistance.

Powerlessness need not mean futility, however. The right words at this time can help. And no one should doubt President Clinton's ability to deliver them. He understands better than any leader since Churchill and Roosevelt how much politics is the art of tone. The world and the markets, never mind the Russians, do need an air of reassurance at this time; a feeling that while the problems are Russia's and theirs to solve, they will not spread or bring down the rest of the world with it.

For a start, Russia, while a pygmy in economic reality, remains a superpower in ballistic capability. For the Europeans, who no longer have to fear the threat of short- and medium-range ballistic missiles, this may not have much reality. But for the Americans it does. There is sense in propping up Yeltsin's personal position so long as he remains head of the armed services and he can now be kept above the domestic morass around him.

The economic ramifications of the present crisis are more difficult to control. But again fine words can but-



ter some parsnips. Markets cannot be reversed, but given the right nudge they can be stalled and even occasionally turned. Finance without barriers allows problems in one part to move very rapidly to others through the medium of currency swaps, futures and the "exotic" financial instruments that have been developed at such a hectic pace in the last few years. But that very fact gives the total system a depth and breadth with which to cope.

The need at this moment is to still any further waves of concern. And here American leadership can make a difference. As the largest economy in the world, its continued growth is of vital importance to the rest of the

world. As the headquarters of global finance, the decision of its institutions set the pace elsewhere.

Now is the time for Western central banks to start easing up on interest rates and the US Federal Reserve could start the process in its meeting this month. In the same way, US banks could do an enormous amount of good, or bad, in their negotiations over the financing of Brazil and Argentina.

No one is saying that, with a wave of his hand, Clinton can make Russia's political problems or the world's financial crisis disappear. But he can help influence events if the timing is right. On that score he still remains a master.

## Give parents the choice on MMR

WHOEVER HEARD of a drugs company refusing to meet a rush for a profitable drug? That is exactly what Pasteur Mérieux MSD has done in discontinuing the supply of its measles vaccine. Ostensibly, the decision was made because the demand for the drug was too great to say the least, this does not sound credible.

Despite denials from all concerned, it seems much more plausible that the company has been forced by pressure from the Department of Health to end the supply of the drug. The alternative would have been to continue watching parents stampede away from the combined version of the treatment (MMR), which combines a measles vaccine with those for mumps and rubella. The single vaccines, given over three years, are more expensive overall to the NHS; concerns of cost must have entered into the equation.

The medical establishment has argued that the original research, on which parents' fears are based, was alarmist. The Medical Research Council claims that the apparent correlation between MMR inoculation and the diseases to which it has been linked is a coincidence. Autism does appear at about the same age as the vaccinations are given, but the evidence is that this was always the case. No one should panic, especially as the result of frightening parents might be increasing deaths from measles, mumps and rubella.

But parents are worried, and doctors have been wrong before. Whatever the Medical Council says, it is their concerns that matter; they have a right to decide which treatments their children receive. It would cost very little for the NHS to give parents the choices they want. Certainly, the money spent on MMR would be nothing compared to what the Government is spending in its attack on waiting-lists. And for the NHS to be humanised, by responding to the wishes of patients, would do it much more good than all the waiting-list targets in the world.

## Don't bank on them

BANK HOLIDAYS have lost not only the reason for their name, but also the reasons for their existence. The banks are open, whatever the British Government may say about it - traders in London yesterday were buying and selling anything they wanted. Every nation needs a day for its families, and people of every religion have a right to take their holy days off work, but a multicultural society no longer needs the prop of manufactured community. We should be able to take them whenever we want, just like other holidays.

## I'm fed up with this myth of superiority spouted by the Scots

IT HAPPENED last Saturday afternoon. Scotswoman opened her mouth, and all of a sudden I knew I'd had enough of all this Scots who has stuff, and decided that if one more person whinged to me, even in a minor key, about how the English fail to comprehend the Scots, then I'd give them a Culloden.

The occasion for this moment of revelation came in the Assembly Halls of the Church of Scotland in Edinburgh. I was in the audience of TV bigwigs to hear Suzanne Moore and Christopher Hitchens among others, debate the Diana, Princess of Wales phenomenon. Had it been something real, as Suzanne persuasively argued? Or half media construction and half obscurantist hysteria, as Christopher elegantly opined?

And then the Scots woman let us call her Morag, stood up. Reminding us that our hums were paraded on hallowed leather (the Assembly Halls will serve, presumably, as a meeting place for the new Scottish parliament). Morag angrily denied the relevance of the debate. There had been, she said, no Diana stuff in her country. She had herself, she told us, gone to the coach station in Edinburgh a year ago to watch mourners depart for the funeral - only to discover that they were all bound for Blackpool. The hysterics had all happened "down south". She made London sound like Alabama.

Morag's assault was two-pronged. First, she was cross about metropolitan and London bias. Far enough, but she was also saying, in effect, that the Scots would not be, could not be, stupid, superstitious or hidebound enough to fall for the Diana con, like the silly English. "We up here," she in-



DAVID AARONOVITCH  
*Nationalists require the painting of a picture of progressive Scots held back by the reactionary English*

there'll be a Scots parliament, and I

ish poet wrote the subversive words "when Adam dove and Eve span, who was then the gentleman?" some three centuries before Burns agreed, with "a man's a man for a' that". In 1831 England witnessed the Peasants' Revolt, when Wat Tyler took London and beheaded the Archbishop of Canterbury. The folk hero of emergent England was Robin Hood, a prevaricating redistributor. Those of Scotland, by contrast, are almost always feudal figures.

The folk culture of England, from the earliest times, was infused with notions of freedom and justice, of bowmen in green cloth against knights. It

was to that sense of Englishness that

the revolutionaries of the 1640s looked when fighting against their (Scottish) king. It was the English who decapitated their tyrant, 144 years before the French got round to it. The Diggers and the Levellers were English, inviting their followers to acts of radicalism in the name of the "new Sir George". Crudely, if half-jokingly, beseeching "in the bowls of Christ, think it possible that you may be mistaken" was addressed to the hopeless sectarians of Scottish Presbyterianism.

It was in England in 1689 - 18 years

before the Act of Union, that the Bill

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wonder then that many Englishmen

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English, and that Scotland was largely

ruled by great estates-holders.

England, too, was (as it is now) a

much more heterogeneous and polyglot place. Defoe characterised English genius as being created through a "mongrel, half-bred race". London was a haven for successive generations of immigrants - I should know. England gave birth to Tom Paine, to the common law, and to Blake's vision of Jerusalem, a radical notion of paradise on earth - England's Green and Pleasant Land. One day when Britain is gone, it'll be our national anthem - not "Rule Britannia", which was written by a Scot.

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## PANDORA

PROMISES, PROMISES. The Culture Secretary, Chris Smith, is a nice guy, perhaps too nice for his own good. When he visited Saltaire, the 19th-century Yorkshire model village created by the millionaire philanthropist Sir Titus Salt, Smith told the locals that he was keen to have the town placed among the 32 British sites on the United Nations' World Heritage list. However, on 21 August, when the British sites were announced, Saltaire was nowhere in sight. Now the local Labour MP, Christopher Leslie, is furious and plans to ask Smith some tough questions on the selection process. Chris Smith, considered lucky to have held his post in the Blair reshuffle, was called lightweight and ineffective by a Labour-dominated Commons committee on culture last June. No more Mr Nice Guy, OK, Chris?

THE REV Jesse Jackson was at Chelsea Clinton's request, ministering to the First Family in the White House on the Sunday evening before the President's disastrous grand jury appearance and late-night "apology". This Sunday the former aide to Martin Luther King and ex-presidential candidate spoke to the American people on a TV programme called *Face the Nation*. "I think he should have made it very clear," Jackson said of Clinton, "to Monica, to the family; all of those forces need to feel there's no fall-guy. The responsibility should have been in his lap." Have true words ever been spoken?

THE NEW television series of *The X-Files* was not filmed in Canada as it was previously, but in sunny Los Angeles. The location change came, in part, as a response to the star David Duchovny's unhappiness about making the long northward commute, says the *Los Angeles Times*. Efforts are apparently being made to avoid losing the show's weird, dark atmosphere. The sultry actress Gillian Anderson, who plays Agent Scully, claims, "It will still be moody. There'll still be a lot of smoke." This was echoed by the producer Paul Rohrlich, who added: "We're looking forward to creating a whole new look for the show without



PANICKY AFTER the collapse of the Russian economy, the City is desperate for good news out of Moscow. Pandora is happy to provide it. Naina Yeltsin, Boris's wife, (pictured) remains in a hollish mood despite the tumbling rouble and the return of black market currency dealing to the city's streets. She told a group of reporters over the weekend, "Intuition is telling me that everything will be all right". So that's a "huh" then?

destroying its integrity". That does sound like Hollywood smoke, doesn't it?

"JUST DO IT" So goes the Nike slogan broadcast around the world, accompanied by the famous white tick. Now, it seems, the sportswear manufacturer is itching for a pitch that's less aggressive, more positive, equally punchy. Rumour has it that the most likely new slogan is "I can". To which Pandora's initial response is "So what?"

NET SURFERS and Zipplegate conspiracy fans are well acquainted with the Drudge Report produced by "outlaw" electronic journalist Matt Drudge, who first broke the Monica Lewinsky story. Although much abuse has been piled on Drudge by mainstream American broadcasters and journalists, their "Report" receives as many as 1m visits a month. Now it has been paid the ultimate compliment - a parody site called the "Drudge Retort" - well worth a visit, at [www.drudge.com](http://www.drudge.com). Not only is the satirical "exclusives" mildly amusing, but the page contains a long list of links to some of the most eccentric sites on the Web. In the meantime, Drudge himself has now signed a contract with Rupert Murdoch's Fox Network. His "outlaw" status is clearly at an end.

THE DRUG-FREE Selmas Method of choosing your baby's sex, first introduced a year ago, is being relaunched. The Selmas people are now so confident that they're offering a full refund to parents who don't get the result they wanted. That's impressive corporate confidence, but Pandora wonders if the company would ever consider exchanging the goods for genuinely unsatisfied customers?

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## A romp in the groves of academe



TERENCE BLACKER

*Those who couldn't pull undergraduates took each other to bed in a fit of promiscuity and infidelity*

erant and easygoing man could not be imagined.

Perhaps the best defence that he could offer is to point out that exclusivity is not the preserve of heterosexuals. This very week Manchester's Mardi Gras Gay festival has introduced for the first time a charge of £5 to be paid by any heterosexual man who wishes to join the party. In addition, straight

men will be required to wear a Pledge Band on their arm, presumably to avoid misunderstandings and save time. "For far too long the Gay Village has been overrun by straights," the editor of *Gay Times*, David Smith, has explained. "I'd rather have a heart to heart with another gay man about the ups and downs on the relationship front and get his gay take on the new football season."

Findings converts to his cause at the Manchester Mardi Gras is difficult for Charlie (and I can't see him being able to contribute much to the gay take on the new football season), he could always return to our old Alma Mater, Trinity College, to discuss matters of intolerance with Dr Eric Griffiths, the English don who humiliated an 18-year-old interviewee on the grounds that she was female, came from Essex and was called Tracy.

Although much has been made in the press about the fact Dr Griffiths is gay and the son of a dockie, neither background nor sexual orientation have anything to do with his peculiar taste for sadistic snobbery. His problem is simply that

he is a modern literary academic. Shortly after Charlie and I came down from Trinity, university life became more complicated. Lecturers started sleeping with their students, frequently allowing non-academic talents to influence the marking of papers. Those who couldn't pull undergraduates took each other to bed and an unseemly fever of promiscuity and infidelity gripped the academy, leaving rage and disappointment in its wake.

Young academics in English faculties were subjected to a further torture. The brighter of their contemporaries - David Lodge, Malcolm Bradbury, Andrew Davies and others - took to writing campus novels and dramas and became media celebrities. The division between learned criticism and the rapid opinion-mongering favoured in Sunday newspapers and late-night arts shows on TV became blurred. Caught between envy and contempt for their more visible colleagues, a whole generation of English academics went bonkers and tried to destroy reading altogether by teaching literary theory.

The luckless Griffiths made his

name at Cambridge just when these changes were taking their toll. He wrote his one book, developed a reputation for the rough-tongued camperry that passes for wit in academic circles, and became a judge on the Booker Prize. If ever there was a cry of pain, it was his description of A S Byatt's *Possession* as "the kind of novel I'd write if I didn't know I couldn't write novels".

Some have said that it is healthy

that such people are in positions of power at the modern university.

They point out that many students of Dr Griffiths have used his crash-course in brutality to good effect - Vanessa Feltz humiliating people

on TV, Amanda Craig writing a take-no-prisoners satirical novel,

David Sexton causing the same

novel to be withdrawn and rewritten. They argue that, had Tracy not fled from the interview in tears, she might already be on her way to a career in one of the rougher areas of the media.

It's possible. In the meantime, I

hope that those contemplating a pink protest at Packington Hall will remember that intolerance covers both - in fact, all - genders.

## Memo to Mr Blair: we need to talk about raising taxes



RAYMOND PLANT

*Discussion of any area of taxation within New Labour's ranks has been seriously inhibited*

FOR NEW Labour, taxation is an issue of particular sensitivity. Among the party leadership it is received wisdom that Labour owed its defeat in the 1992 election to John Smith's "shadow budget". However small the actual tax increases proposed, they enabled Tory propaganda once again to portray Labour as a party of high taxation. Getting rid of this image was one of the first tasks that Tony Blair and the creators of "new Labour" set themselves. The result was the commitment of the party's 1997 manifesto that there would be no increases in either the basic or the higher rate of income tax in the lifetime of this parliament.

One task of the Commission on Taxation and Citizenship which the Fabian Society launches today will be to articulate these basic centre-left arguments for a new political era.

We hope to shift debate finally off the Thatcherite terrain. But more importantly, the Commission

will be examining how the structure of the tax system could be reformed.

First, there is the whole question of the relationship between the public, the taxes they pay, and the uses to which such taxes are put.

The British system is highly centralised. We pay almost all our taxes into a single central pool, which then gets distributed by government in the Budget - with extraordinary little prior public debate - to all its various forms of spending. For the ordinary citizen, this process obscures any connection between what one pays in to the system and what one gets out. It is hardly any wonder that opinion polls reveal what would otherwise look like a paradox: there is little support for higher taxes per se, but a majority is willing to pay more for particular kinds of spending, such as health and education.

But why shouldn't taxes be more closely connected to the benefits

simply a form of electoral bribery; it is the corollary of the neo-liberal belief that the state should be reduced in size.

For those on the centre and left of politics this cannot be the basis for public action. One may argue about the appropriate level of taxation - there need certainly be no commitment to high levels of tax - but the essential legitimacy of taxation must be maintained. Public expenditure is good, providing services which private spending cannot do. Paying taxes, as Keynes reminds us, is simply the membership fee for living in a civilised society.

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they pay for? By "hypothecating" or earmarking particular sources of revenue to particular expenditures, the government might substantially increase the public acceptability of taxation. Indeed it has already recognised this principle in the transport White Paper, which allows local authorities to levy road congestion charges for the specific purpose of funding public transport.

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The British system is highly centralised. We pay almost all our taxes into a single central pool, which then gets distributed by government in the Budget - with extraordinary little prior public debate - to all its various forms of spending. For the ordinary citizen, this process obscures any connection between what one pays in to the system and what one gets out. It is hardly any wonder that opinion polls reveal what would otherwise look like a paradox: there is little support for higher taxes per se, but a majority is willing to pay more for particular kinds of spending, such as health and education.

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# Russia's old hand at the helm

**RUSSIA'S LAZARUS** Prime Minister, Viktor Chernomyrdin, started out as the man Boris Yeltsin did not want as head of government, and has ended up in control of the destiny of the President - or put more cruelly, of the pace and manner of his political demise.

President Clinton, who spent much of last week being told by his advisers that Mr Yeltsin was likely to be out of office by the time he arrived in Moscow for today's summit, now finds that his opposite number in Moscow has pulled off the most extraordinary of his many survival acts to date. A deal between the Communist-dominated parliament and Chernomyrdin is intended to shore up the President until the Kremlin elections planned for the year 2000.

But it is Chernomyrdin who is pulling the President's strings, and to him that the US will appeal to save Russia's battered reforms: just five months after a panicked Yeltsin sacked him, only to re-appoint him last week after the sudden rouble devaluation brought on an even greater panic. Chernomyrdin's eclipse of Yeltsin is the latest step in a tortuous and ambiguous relationship between the two men which began in 1992, when the former head of Gazprom, the natural gas industry, was imposed on Yeltsin in his first defeat by the Congress of People's Deputies, the legislative hangover from the Communist era, and an early power base for the enemies of reform.

He replaced Yegor Gaidar, the young monetarist beloved of the West, as Prime Minister. Yeltsin was unable to hide the pain of the moment, standing with bowed head at the podium after he had given in, and announcing through his spokesman that he and Gaidar had been "one heart and one soul". If the lurid account of the President's ousted bodyguard, Alexander Korzakov, is to be believed, Yeltsin's drink problem began - or rather resurfaced - at this time.

Chernomyrdin arrived in office as the incarnation of all that the Yeltsin team stood against. He wanted to go slow where the reformers sought to move fast, favoured the role of the state where they elevated the market, and called for the loosening of monetary policy while they saw resulting inflation as the greatest threat to prosperity.

The West has become far more jaundiced about the chances of reforms making rapid headway in Russia than it was then. As a Moscow correspondent when Chernomyrdin arrived in office, I still remember our dismay at the first public glimpse of the new premier, still dazed after his leap from deciding the fate of oil subsidies one minute to heading the government the next. Chancellor Kohl, arriving that day to deliver one of his periodic pep-talks and encourage German investment, was only told as he was flying over the Baltic States that he was to be met by Chernomyrdin, not Gaidar.

Instead of the podgy young reformer with eager eccentric English, and a fascination for the free market, there stood on the tarmac a sombre figure in a navy-blue raincoat - the traditional outdoors uniform of the *nomenklatura*. The new PM looked like a cross between Mikhail Gorbachev and Helmut Kohl. But his style was pure *fimo sovieticus*, and there was something strangely familiar about his habit of delivering promising starts to sentences, only for their reformism to evaporate in the second. "I am for the market, but not for the bazaar" was his first soundbite. His first act was to try and re-impose price controls, a move defeated by Yeltsin's reformist economic adviser Boris Fyodorov.



ANNE MCÉLOVY

I still remember our dismay at the first public glimpse of the new premier - a sombre figure in a navy-blue raincoat

Chernomyrdin was - and still is - a representative of the pragmatic if limited mentality of the "red managers" who really kept the Soviet Union running in its terminal phase. A recent interview with the *Financial Times* exhibits his continuing pride in this era: "I transformed the government industry into a company and I myself... was the first to do this in the [Soviet] Union. I understood even then that we had reached a dead end." Hauling Gazprom out of the claws of the dying Soviet state created one of the world's largest companies. Chernomyrdin clearly believes that he is skilled at market economics. But running a monopoly in an essential commodity, whose gargantuan size guarantees it a major international standing, hardly counts as experience of the cut and thrust of capitalism.

Indeed, his attachment to his former contacts (radical reformers nickname him the minister for Gazprom) linked him to several of the business and banking oligarchs who are a more powerful force in Russia than the politicians. Their empire flourished under his premiership. For a man who believed in the market, not the bazaar, he presided over the greatest national cut-price asset sale of the century - with profits flooding into western bank accounts, not back into the impoverished Russian tax system.

It is hardly surprising then, that many pro-free market Western analysts are concluding that the revival of Chernomyrdin is a disaster, since he was responsible for many of the problems to start with. But they are unable to suggest a politically valid alternative. Chernomyrdin is no fool. He is keenly aware that he can only prevent a worse decline in Russia - and bolster his own chance of replacing Yeltsin in the Kremlin in two years' time - if he manages to collect some tax revenue from the country's powerful companies, and clamp down on their habit of salting away profits in banks outside the country. In other words, he needs to pick a fight with the very people who are supporting him now.

Watching Boris Berzovsky, the most prominent of the business tsars, telling *Newsnight* that Chernomyrdin would be good for the country - and proceeding to mix up the words "country" and "company" several times - did not inspire confidence.

But my hunch is that Chernomyrdin has learned more in the last six years than his detractors give him credit for. He has appointed as deputy prime minister Boris Fyodorov, the same man who defeated him over price controls in 1993. He also knows that Russian business has little interest in a fully-fledged Communist revival, let alone a Communist in the Kremlin. The red managers who rose to political, as well as economic, prominence under Mikhail



The new image of Russia: Victor Chernomyrdin may not be the best thing for the country, but he is certainly not the worst

Gorbachev's perestroika are scathing about ideological diehards, like the present Communist leader, Gennady Zyuganov, who have substituted nationalist chauvinism for Marxist-Leninism. Zyuganov tried to scupper the peace deal that brought an end to the pointless, degrading and expensive war in Chechnya, after Chernomyrdin had helped broker an armistice.

"They destroyed everything; they destroyed the best people; they destroyed the peasants," Chernomyrdin has said of the Communists, a rather cynical outcry for

someone whose entire career before 1991 was bound up with the Communist Party of the Soviet Union. But it does mean that, like Boris Yeltsin, his priority is to keep Zyuganov and his ally, the unhinged Vladimir Zhirinovsky, out of power by outwitting them in his *de facto* running of the country. If he is not the best thing that could happen to Russia, he is far from the worst.

Neither, unlike his extremist challengers, is he economically illiterate. He knows that he must find some way to pay back wages owed to workers (and a cause taken up by

## RIGHT OF REPLY

ANDREW PAKES

The President of the National Union of Students responds to Ken Livingstone's accusation that they are backtracking on racism

READING KEN Livingstone's article in the *Indy* last Wednesday I was struck by one overwhelming thought: how sad it is that an individual who obviously has such a positive record in anti-racism work can get things (on occasion) so wrong.

I wholeheartedly agree with Ken's assertion that political correctness is a reactionary American import used by the right as a rallying call for all those opposed to the advances made in recent years by women, black and Asian communities, people with disabilities and lesbians, gays and bisexuals.

However, our Ken, does "his" cause no good when he attacks the National Union of Students for its role in combating the threat of Islamic extremists on campus. Has Ken constructed a league table of those who face prejudice and discrimination and prioritised which offenders most deserve our contempt and attention?

NUS has never claimed the small but dangerous groups of Islamic extremists are the main cause of racism, but they are a distinct and real threat to the welfare and safety of many students. As a gay male, I myself, have been subjected to some of their bile and hatred.

Racism is a series of diverse and often complex prejudices between and within different groups in "multi-cultural" Britain. This year's NUS Conference took an overwhelming vote to establish a Black Students Officer; while in July, Neville Lawrence addressed our annual Student Convention.

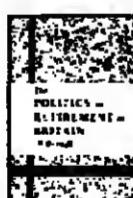
The student movement remains committed to fighting racism in all its forms, and I am not alone in finding Ken's belief - that challenging Islamic extremism on campus is not really fighting racism - quite bizarre.

## The changing face of old age

MANY CHANGES will be necessary if the Government is to fulfil its pledge so that it works, rather than against, the grain of human nature. But pensions are the big issue. Reform here attempts to lay down the basis on which future income begins to be determined only after 40 years or so. Such a reform is not for those who seek only short-term fixes. There are, for example, still 700,000 pensioners today drawing entitlement from the 1925 Pensions Act.

Pension provision has a profound impact on work incentives, as well as on the propensity to save. In taking an overall view, this book has important lessons for today's debate, provided that the reader is willing to push through the ideological framework in which John Macnicol seeks to impose on the story he seeks to tell.

His book kicks off with an introduction which hardly links to the rest



TUESDAY BOOK

THE POLITICS OF RETIREMENT IN BRITAIN, 1878-1948  
BY JOHN MACNICAL, CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS, £45

of the volume, the structure of which the author tries to fit into the neat little boxes of class and gender. Fortunately, the story to be told is so good that it keeps breaking out from the limited confines the author is intent to place upon it.

Here is one example of the slant in much of Macnicol's text. On too many occasions, we learn that the wicked Tories would only countenance welfare reform provided it was financed on a basis of national insurance. The working class, in other words, would pay for its own reforms. There is no hint that there could be other, more substantial,

reasons for such an approach. Paying directly for benefits may affect the behaviour of the recipient, for example. A further difficulty with this approach comes when the author moves away from the interwar years, dominated by the Tories, and on to the programme of postwar reconstruction. Clement Attlee accepted the insurance principle not because he was a crypto-Tory - nothing could be further from the truth. He did so because he believed that a welfare system which people believed they owned was one which might not only survive longer, but would play its own part in building a new socialist commonwealth.

It is true that Lord Beveridge drove the insurance principle into a financial cul-de-sac by insisting on flat-rate contributions for flat-rate benefits. But both Beveridge and Attlee mitigated the regressive nature of this national insurance poll tax by allowing to put the taxpayer's contribution at two-thirds of the welfare bill. An analysis of this Exchequer contribution, adding a progressive element to a system which allowed practically every worker to be a full member of the insurance scheme, does not feature in this volume.

Where the book is good is in the section dealing with the reform of the Poor Law, and the advent of old age pensions. And it is exceptionally good in the chapter dealing with the interwar studies of poverty.

Better than any other study I have read, Macnicol shows how the reform of the Poor Law at the turn of the century was not simply about easing the



Poverty still affects too many old people

lot of the aged poor; whose only offence was that they no longer had the strength to drag themselves to work should any employer want them. Help for the aged opened up the opportunity for a tougher regime for those of working age, and this too was a goal for most reformers who advocated the introduction of state pensions.

Macnicol excels, adding much to public knowledge, and hopefully to the political debate, in his analysis of what was read from the interwar poverty studies. He shows how the aged poor were very largely written off these studies by those who wrote up the surveys, despite what the raw data suggested.

I had long been aware of how Rowntree's arbitrary "poverty line" had underestimated the costs of women and children, as compared to the adult male. I had not appreciated

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## TUESDAY POEM

TO THE LONDONERS  
FROM 'IN 1940'  
BY ANNA AKHMATOVA. TRANSLATED BY RICHARD MCKANE

Time is writing Shakespeare's twenty-fourth drama,  
with a clear, dispassionate hand.  
and for us, the partakers of this menacing feast,  
it is better to read Hamlet, Julius Caesar or King Lear  
by the molten lead river:  
Better for us today to accompany the little dove Juliet  
to the grave with torches and singing,  
better to look through the window at Macbeth  
and tremble with the hired murderer;  
but not this, not this, not this,  
this even we aren't capable of reading.

Our poems this week come from 'Poetry of the Second World War: an International Anthology', edited by Desmond Graham (Pimlico, £10)

JULY 15 1998

# Sir Ralph Freeman

**SIR RALPH** Freeman was the former senior partner at the international civil engineering consultancy Freeman, Fox & Partners and the earliest surviving past-President of the Institution of Civil Engineers.

He was the son of the renowned structural engineer Sir Ralph Freeman, designer of the Sydney Harbour Bridge and founder of Freeman, Fox & Partners. He shared his father's passion for large bridge design and construction – a passion he passed to his son Anthony – and was responsible for the construction of many major projects including the vast Humber suspension bridge – the longest in the world at the time – the Medway Bridge and M2 motorway, the Auckland Harbour Bridge, the Forth Road Bridge, and the Severn and Wye Bridges.

Throughout his long career Freeman dedicated a huge amount of time to the profession through his work for the Institution of Civil Engineers, culminating with his presidency in 1966-67. But his skills also crossed over to the lighter side of engineering, recognised by his knighthood in 1970 while serving as consulting engineer to the Queen, responsible for the upkeep of Sandringham Park, a post he was appointed to in 1949. He was also responsible for managing construction of the South Bank Exhibition, the main showcase for the Festival of Britain in 1951.

Ralph Freeman was born in 1911 and educated at Uppingham School, Leicestershire, and Worcester College, Oxford, where he gained an honours degree in Engineering Science. As a student he worked during the vacations for the steelwork fabricator Dorman Long, both in its Middlesbrough steel works and in London on the construction of Lambeth Bridge and the widening of Putney Bridge across the River Thames.

After graduating, his passion for bridge construction took him to Rhodesia and South Africa with Dorman Long where he spent seven years, from 1932 to 1939, in contracting, building mainly long-span bridges but also the steelworks in Pretoria. It was on one of his long sea trips to Rhodesia that he met Joan Rose from Cape Town. They married in 1939.

His work in Southern Africa included the 320m-span steel Otto Beit suspension bridge across the Zambezi at Chirundu and the 330m steel arch Birchenough Bridge over the Sabi River. Between these two projects he spent six months in Denmark working on the 3.1km steel girder road and rail Storsstrom Bridge and then for Braithwaite & Co on an oil pipeline jetty in the Medway. He finally returned to the UK in 1939 to join Freeman, Fox & Partners to work mainly on the design and construction of the Royal Naval Propellant factory in Caerwent, Monmouthshire.

His engineering work did not stop during the war. Freeman served in the Royal Engineers and worked as a Captain in the Experimental Bridging Establishment in Christchurch. There he was involved in the development of a special sprung military suspension bridge using Bailey Bridge components – a design later used with great success in Burma.

He was then seconded as chief engineer to 21 Army Group to advise on the construction of Bailey Bridges in France, Belgium, Holland and Germany. In 1945 he was appointed MBE (Military) and made Knight of the Orange-Nassau (Netherlands) for his war-time efforts. He continued his military links in civilian life by serving in the Territorial Army Volunteer Reserve and was made commanding officer of the Engineer and Railway Staff Corp in 1969, a post he held for the maximum permitted five-year period.

After the war he rejoined Freeman Fox and was made a partner in 1947. Two years later he was appointed consulting engineer to King George VI to look after Sandringham Park, an honorary position he continued under Queen Elizabeth until he retired in 1976. He oversaw a variety of building alterations including the complete overhaul of the central heating system – a job which prompted him to describe himself as "the Queen's plumber".

Freeman Fox's growing reputation for structural excellence led to the award in 1949 of a major commission to design and co-ordinate construction of buildings for the South Bank Exhibition as part of the Festival of Britain. This included the spectacular steel-framed and aluminium-clad Dome of Discovery exhibition hall – a structure which commanded almost as much controversy as today's Dome at Greenwich.

After the sudden death of his father in early 1950, Freeman assumed personal responsibility for the project. It was completed to a very tight timescale in time for the Festival opening. He was appointed CBE in 1952 for his contribution to "the Queen's plumber".

The 1950s were an extremely busy time for the expanding Freeman Fox partnership, based mainly around Freeman's love and knowledge of bridges. The firm also took on major commissions around the world to build thermal and hydro-electric power stations including the Fesilino pumped storage power station in Wales. By 1958

Freeman spearheaded the firm's work on many of the then biggest projects in the world. These included the M2 and M5 motorways, the Forth Road Bridge, the Severn Bridge, both Bosphorus Bridges in Turkey and the cross-harbour tunnel and mass transit rail systems in Hong Kong



his reputation for large bridge construction led to the invitation to join an international team of engineers to investigate the partial collapse of a huge cantilever highway bridge under construction in Vancouver in Canada.

Freeman took over as senior partner at Freeman Fox in 1963, a position he held until he retired at the age of 68 in 1979. During this time he spearheaded the firm's work on many of the biggest projects in the world at the time. These included the M2 and M5 motorways, the Forth Road Bridge, the Severn Bridge, both Bosphorus Bridges in Turkey and the cross-harbour tunnel and mass transit rail systems in Hong Kong. He was also intimately involved in the aftermath of the catastrophic collapse in 1970 of steel box

girder bridges in Milford Haven and across the River Yarra in Melbourne.

His career culminated with the construction of the huge Humber Estuary crossing near Hull. When it finally opened in 1981, two years after Freeman's retirement, it was the longest single-span suspension bridge in the world, 1410m between its two 185m-high pylons. The steel deck design used state-of-the-art streamlining to reduce the wind loading and set new standards for suspension bridge design and construction around the world.

Freeman had become a member of the Institution of Civil Engineers in 1937 and a fellow in 1946. He was elected a member of Council 1951-56 and again in 1956-61 before becoming President in November 1966.

Even after his retirement Sir

Ralph Freeman kept an active interest in civil engineering, particularly through the work of his eldest son, Anthony, who tragically died in July as a result of injuries sustained in an accident on the Vasco da Gama bridge in Lisbon in April 1997.

Father and son would talk continuously of their latest adventures in bridge design and construction whenever they met up. In later years they discussed problems and ideas by telephone and Sir Ralph had a fax machine specially installed at home to transmit diagrams and sketches to and from Anthony around the world.

Freeman's other passions included playing golf, sailing yachts and wood and metal work. He was a prolific writer and a regular contributor to the letters pages of the profession's magazine *New Civil Engineer*, always putting his point forcefully but thoughtfully.

ANTONY OLIVER

**Ralph Freeman**, civil engineer; born London 3 February 1911; MBE 1945; CBE 1952; Partner, Freeman, Fox & Partners 1947-79; Senior Partner 1962-79; Consulting Engineer to the Queen for Sandringham Estate 1949-76; Vice-President, Institution of Civil Engineers 1962-66, President 1966-67; CVO 1964; Kt 1970; married 1939 Joan Rose (one son, one daughter and one son deceased); died Limpfield, Surrey 24 August 1998.



The Humber Bridge, designed by Freeman, Fox & Partners. It held the record of the world's longest span bridge from when it opened in 1981 until earlier this year

## Jerry Clower



FROM THE minstrel tradition of the black-face duo Jarnup and Honey in the 1930s through the "Golden Age" of Minnie Pearl and Red Brasfield, to the current redneck humour of Jeff Foxworthy, comedy has long played an important, if underrated, role in the history of country music.

Simple, direct and invariably drawing on the Southern character, it has been both light relief from the hardships endured by its core audience and a cultural barrier that outsiders have found difficult to surmount. Its appeal is largely regional – a New Yorker is as likely to sit story-faced through such a routine as is a Londoner – but that alone ensures it an audience of millions.

Known as "The Mouth of the Mississippi", Jerry Clower was for nearly 30 years the biggest star in the field, with a string of gold discs, countless television appearances and membership of the famed Grand Ole Opry to his credit.

His monologues were bathed in nostalgia for simpler times and for activities like "coon hunts, impromptu rodeos, molasses-making and church picnics. Many chronicled the comic misadventures of the fictional Marcel Ledbetter and his family, whilst others were faced with an overt and sometimes distasteful patriotism. Although he always maintained that his shows were firmly family-oriented, his humour occasionally verged on the amusingly tasteless. A memorable publicity shot, for example, shows him cradling a coonhound under his right arm whilst balancing a chainsaw on his left knee.

As with many comics, he loved the interaction a performer has with his audience and refused to use canned laughter on his albums, believing it to be dishonest. "I am convinced," he once declared, "that there is only one place where there is no laughter and that's Hell. I have made arrangements to miss Hell. Praise God, I won't ever have to be anywhere that there ain't no laughter."

Born in Liberty, Mississippi, close to the Louisiana border, Clower

joined the US Navy on graduating from high school but found himself drawn increasingly to the world of farming. On leaving the navy, he enrolled at Junior College before heading to Mississippi State University on the back of a football scholarship. He graduated with a degree in agriculture and joined the Mississippi Chemical Company, based in Yazoo City, where he eventually rose to become Director of Field Sales.

He began to develop a series of routines based on his early life, using them to enliven his sales patter and when these proved popular was persuaded to record them for the local Lemon label. Entitled "Jerry Clower from Yazoo City, Mississippi" (1971), the disc sold so well that Clower found himself signed to MCA. His albums for the label included "Clower Power" (1973), "Country Ham" (1974), "The Ledbetter Olympics" (1980), "Dogs I Have Known" (1982) and "Top Gun" (1987), which featured a rather bizarre country rap number.

PAUL WADEY

**Jerry Clower**, comedian; born Liberty, Mississippi 28 September 1926; married 1947 Homertine Wells (one son, three daughters); died Jackson, Mississippi 24 August 1998.

## Patrick Bailey



**PATRICK BAILEY** was one of Britain's finest and foremost geographical educators. Over the years, he did much to promote Geography as a school subject and to enhance the teaching of the subject in schools.

Born in 1925, after leaving school and spending time in the Royal Navy, Bailey studied Geography at Corpus Christi College, Cambridge, from 1947 to 1951 and subsequently at McGill University, Montreal. For much of his professional career, he taught at the School of Education, Leicester University, in the latter years combining this with undergraduate teaching in the Geography Department.

Before coming to Leicester in 1969, Bailey had taught in Norfolk. His first post was at Paston Grammar School, from where he moved on to become Head of Geography at Wycombe Abbey College. Later he was Principal Lecturer at Northumbria College of Education at Ponteland from 1964 to 1968, where he met and subsequently married Peggy, his lifetime companion.

Bailey was a central figure in the activities of the Geographical Association, both nationally and locally for many years. He was editor of the very valuable *Teaching Geography* publication in the period 1974 to 1985. In 1997, he was made an honorary member of the association for his many years of service.

Many geography teachers who received their initial teacher training at Leicester, and more recently at Loughborough, where he taught part-time following his retirement

from Leicester, have much to thank him for. He set and expected very high standards in all that he did; course planning, supporting students in their teaching and, not least, in his own teaching.

His talks were a role model for students and teachers alike, honed to a very high standard; a choice quotation, an original stant, a skilfully crafted argument, superb illustrations – slides, field sketches, maps and diagrams were his trademark.

Bailey's enthusiasm for his subject was infectious, his love of teaching boundless – sometimes he even found it difficult not to intervene in the classroom when advising and supporting students on teaching practice. He was equally at ease introducing interested lay people to the delights of town trails and countryside walks.

Behind the teacher/scholar, Patrick Bailey was a very compassionate, thoughtful and caring man, generous in his praise of work done well, and very supportive of his close colleagues as well as his tutees. It was a measure of his inner strength and belief – he was a Christian Scientist – that in spite of a very debilitating illness he continued to be stimulating, interested, alert, and active in promoting the cause of geographical education.

The award of an Honorary Fel-

lowship by the Royal Geographical Society shortly before his death, following similar recognition in Poland and Portugal, was a well deserved accolade and one of which he was justifiably proud.

ALAN SUTTON

**Patrick John Mumford Bailey**, geographer and educationist; born London 31 December 1925; Principal Lecturer in Geography, Northumbria College of Education, Ponteland 1961-68; Senior Lecturer in Education, Leicester University 1969-87; married 1968 Peggy Douglas; died Leicester 16 July 1998.

## Karl Schirdewan

IN DAVID Childs's obituary of Karl Schirdewan [10 August] there is one significant error, writes Peter Barker.

Schirdewan was not born in Königsberg, but in Stettin. I recently came across this fact when researching an encyclopaedia entry on Schirdewan. In GDR reference works he always stated that he was born into a working-class family in

Königsberg, but he was hiding the fact that his real family came from Stettin and had a higher social status. The standard biographical work on the GDR, which has appeared since unification, *Wer war wer in der DDR*, repeated this mistake in its first edition (1994), but corrected it in its third edition of 1996 after the discovery of relevant files in the SED archive.

I WAS aware that there was controversy about the place of birth of Karl Schirdewan, writes Professor David Childs. However, as his friends in the PDS, who announced his death, kept to his claim that he was born in Königsberg, I felt it was right to leave it at that.

A significant number of Germans changed details of their place of birth after the Second World War for po-

litical reasons and it is not always possible to get proper verification, especially in towns which were overrun by the Red Army. Many of the files in Königsberg and Stettin were destroyed, causing great inconvenience for some and great opportunities for others. It will be interesting to see what appears in Schirdewan's autobiography which is due to appear shortly.



## Sergio Fiorentino

**THE PIANIST** Sergio Fiorentino was an extraordinary artist who turned his back on the concert platform at the peak of his powers to concentrate on teaching and returned two decades later with formidable technique and musicality undiminished to an acclaim that most artists only dream of.

A critic wrote recently that Fiorentino's life appeared to consist of a hard luck history "that nearly outshines *Shine*", but that is true only insofar that Fiorentino was badly hurt in an air crash in 1954 which put a temporary end to illustrious engagements throughout Europe and America at a time when he was being described as the most promising pianist of his generation.

His later decision to remove himself entirely from public performance until the end of his life, while complex, was entirely his own and one he did not appear to regret.

A scholarship personally awarded by the Minister of Education took Fiorentino to the San Pietro Majella Conservatory in 1938, and although his teachers were among the most distinguished of their time he was fond of saying that his influences came from watching Alfred Cortot, Walter Gieseking and Edwin Fischer, or from listening to recordings, principally those of Rachmaninov playing his own music. Fiorentino had a special affinity with the music of the Russian master and it played an important and significant part in his repertoire throughout his life.

From 1947, the young virtuoso, small, slim and totally undemonstrative at the keyboard, began to be noticed in Europe. He was awarded first prize of the Concorso Rossini in Naples and the international competition of his Academia Musicale Internazionale in Genoa. The leading agents sought him out and by 1953 he had made his American debut in the Carnegie Hall. All seemed set for

the predicted glittering career, but the following year while on tour in South America the aircraft carrying him crashed. He sustained a severe spinal injury and, for some time, paralysis. He could not physically play for some years and once told me that when he was able to return to the instrument he had to re-learn some of his technique.

By the late 1950s he decided to set about re-establishing himself and embarked on a series of recordings in Britain, principally for Saga, Fidelity, Summit and their regularly reincarnated successors which often offered intriguing budget-priced repertoire at five shillings (25p) a time, but sometimes let down by playing surfaces which ap-

peared to have been prepared from a mixture of vinyl and fine road grit. Most were never reviewed as a result.

Through all this shone some magnificent playing: memorable recordings of the complete Rachmaninov preludes, a Brahms Handel Variations in which the opening mimicry of harpsichord appears never to have been equalled, and some Liszt recitals with deeply musical virtuosity. Added to this was a virtually complete survey of Chopin and performances of Bach-Busoni that alone would have set him apart as a performer.

Quite why he decided in 1974 to give up playing concerts and return to a professional role at the Conservatory where he had studied is not entirely clear, but one suspects it was a combination of events allied to his self-effacing and non-combative temperament. He disliked the publicity machine that often went with concerts and although completely confident of his own ability at the keyboard was so modest that the tendency of promoters and record companies to compete for the "greatest pianist" accolade or to make comparisons genuinely appalled him. Quiet and unassuming, he fell ill at ease on the cocktail circuit simply because he could not see the purpose of it.

All these things, together with the generally unattractive life of an itinerant musician, led him to withdraw into the comparative obscurity of a teaching role.

were quickly dispelled both by enthusiasm of Limpie (whose achievements cannot be overrated) and of audiences thrilled to discover this master pianist in their midst. Bach-Busoni, Rachmaninov, Prokofiev, Thais and some forgotten whirlwind transcriptions of *Die Fledermaus* and the Strauss waltzes were hurried at audiences who quickly realised they were in the presence of someone quite exceptional.

When the knowledgeable Bryan Clegg, founder of APE Recordings and one of the best judges of the great pianists of this century, made a live tape of one of those performances and issued it for general admiration, it marked the renaissance of Fiorentino and his return to the recording studio after a 30-year absence.

Everything began to happen for him. He was invited to China to give concerts and master classes and began to appear on the adjudication panels of various competitions as well as fitting concerts at prestigious European events. What became annual appearances at the Newport Festival, where he was booked "for life", led to the sort of critical adulation that is rarely seen today. He was dubbed a pianist of the Golden Age and was lauded wherever he went.

Recording plans were laid into the new millennium but his death, at home suddenly and without suffering, means they will not be fulfilled. The deep musical insights which he used to turn the most familiar repertoire into a revelation and his understanding of composers from Bach to Scriabin will ensure that his name and stature remain at the forefront wherever great piano playing is appreciated.

ALAN M. WATKINS

*Sergio Fiorentino, pianist; born Naples, Italy, 22 December 1927; married; died Naples 22 August 1998.*

*Fiorentino's return to the platform must be one of the rare examples of an enthusiast persuading a professional to think again*

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## GAZETTE

### BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS

#### DEATHS

**KERSLAKE:** Mr George W. Kerslake, who before retirement worked for the London Co-operative Society, was a lifetime member of the Labour Party and a trade unionist. He was active in the trade union movement. Mr Kerslake is survived by his daughter Pauline, and son-in-law, Colonel W. Andrew Wisdom, of Middlebury, Virginia, USA. Services will be held on Saturday 4 September at 3.30pm, East London Crematorium, Grange Road, Plaistow, E13. Enquiries: T. Cribb & Sons, 0171-476 1855.

Announcements for Gazette BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS (Births, Adoptions, Marriages, Deaths, Memorial services, Wedding anniversaries, In memoriam) are charged at £10 per line, VAT extra. OTHER Gazette announcements (notices, functions, Fundraising, marriages, Births, Deaths, Marriages), which must be submitted in writing, are charged at £10 per line, VAT extra. Always include a daytime telephone number.

The Independent's main switchboard number is 0171-293 2000.

#### BIRTHDAYS

Mr Kornel Abe, composer; 87; Sir Kenneth Bradshaw, former Clerk of the House of Commons, 76; Mr Richard Burden MP, 44; Sir David Carter, chief medical officer, Scottish Office Department of Health, 58; Professor Ronald Cooke, Vice-Chancellor, York University, 57; Mr Richard Edis, ambassador to Tunisia, 55; Mr Gwynfor Evans, honorary president, Plaid Cymru, 86; Mrs Margaret Ewing MP, 53; Air Chief Marshal Sir Robert Freer, 75; Mr Barry Gibb, singer, 52; Mr Allen Jones, artist, 61; Mr Fraser Kemp MP, 40; Baroness Park of Monmouth, former Principal, Somerville College, Oxford, 77; Lord Parkinson, former government minister, 67; Miss Jessica Pearce, ambassador to Belarus, 41; Mr Milton Shulman, film and theatre critic, 80; Lord Thomson of Fleet, newspaper proprietor, 74.

#### ANNIVERSARIES

Births: Edward Allyn, actor and founder of Dulwich Col-

lege, 1566; Marguerite Gardiner, Countess Blessington, writer and journalist, 1788; Zerah Colburn, infant prodigy in mathematics, 1804; Amilcare Ponchielli, composer, 1834; Engelbert Humperdinck, composer, 1854; Baron Carl Auer von Welsbach, chemist, inventor of the gas mantle, 1858; Sir Roger David Casement, conspirator for Irish nationalism, 1864; "Gentleman Jim" James John Corbett, heavyweight boxer, 1866; Edgar Rice Burroughs, novelist and creator of "Tarzan", 1875; Rex Ellingwood Beach, novelist, 1877; Rocky Marciano, (Rocco Marchegiani), heavyweight boxer, 1923.

Deaths: Hadrian IV, Pope (Nicholas Breakspeare, the only Englishman to be Pope), 1153; Jacques Cartier, explorer, 1557; Louis XIV, the "Sun King" of France, 1715; Sir Richard Steele, essayist and playwright, 1729; William Yarrell, zoologist, 1856; Samuel Coleridge-Taylor, composer, 1912; Guy Burgess, defector, 1963; Siegfried Lorraine Sassoon, poet and writer, 1967; Francois Mauriac, poet and novelist, 1970.

#### ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS

The Duke of York visits the Alfred McAlpine Stadium in Huddersfield, West Yorkshire; visits the Kirklees Media Centre Cyber Cafe, Huddersfield; as Patron, the Fire Service Sports and Athletics Association, attends the opening ceremony of the Fire Services European Volleyball Championships at the Huddersfield Sports Centre; and visits the Belfry, Sutton Coldfield, West Midlands.

#### CHANGING OF THE GUARD

The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment mounts the Queen's Life Guard at Horse Guards, 11am.

#### LECTURES

National Gallery: Lynda Stephens, "Picturing Women (I): female portraits of the Italian Renaissance", 1pm. Wallace Collection, London W1: Grania Lyster, "Dutch and Flemish Landscape Painting", 1pm.

### HISTORICAL NOTES

FINIAN CUNNINGHAM

## The political fall-out from Hiroshima



WHEN THE US Air Force dropped the atomic bombs 53 years ago on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, mankind had, as Albert Camus put it, "surely reached its final degree of savagery".

The accepted explanation for why the administration of President Harry Truman dropped the bombs was that it brought a swift end to the Pacific war and thus saved many more lives than those lost at Hiroshima and Nagasaki. This first and only use of atomic weapons was, it has been claimed, a classic case of the end justifying the means.

But what if this "end" is shown to be false, and the real reason for the atomic holocaust was not the swift termination of hostilities but an entirely different purpose, namely the staking out of Western geopolitical territory in the emerging post-war world order?

From April 1945 American officials calculated that using the atomic bomb would enormously bolster US diplomacy vis-à-vis the Soviet Union in negotiations over both post-war Europe and the Far East. The ascendancy of "atomic diplomacy" coincided with the presidential succession of the US' fierce anti-Communist Truman.

A defining moment of the new diplomacy occurred during the Potsdam conference on 18 July when Truman was cabled from Washington on the success of the "Trinity" test explosion in the New Mexico desert. It was the first practical demonstration of awesome atomic power.

The news transformed Truman's diplomacy at Potsdam. He immediately began dominating the proceedings, telling the Russians "where to get on and off". Possession of the bomb gave Truman the "master card" over the Soviets, recorded the US war secretary Henry Stimson.

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# On your bike: this is war

Cyclists think they're doing the world a favour. To other road users they're a lawless menace. Pedal rage, anyone? By Darius Sanai

LAST WEEK Weston-super-Mare resolved to do its bit to halt global warming by lending a load of bikes to young people. Little do the good people of Weston know what trouble they have stored up for themselves with this apparently worthy gesture.

They will learn. The summer truce is over and one of the world's most vicious gang wars is set to break out, with renewed ferocity, across the streets of Britain. From Dover to Dundee the hardened gang members are honing their weapons and preparing for battle. Unlike the pampered denizens of Los Angeles and the Chicago South Side, Britons will not be sheltered from the fighting if they stay clear of the ghettos: this turf war is taking place on every highway and byway. And it's lethal: every year, people get killed, more are wounded, and thousands of others are left quivering in their seats as witnesses to the mindless carnage.

The war is a universal one and the gangs incorporate virtually every citizen of the United Kingdom, whether they want to belong or not. For all of us have, at one time, been pedestrians, cyclists, bikers or motorists. John Prescott may talk about making our roads safer, happier places but, as Britain's population is brought up to normal again by the return from the Costas, the ugly truth will dawn. It's war out there.

Our street violence is a serious business: 973 pedestrians were killed last year, as were 2,826 other road-users, and even the

most seemingly innocuous battles can be deadly: six cyclists and pedestrians died last year after crashing into each other.

Last year, a grandmother chased a 13-year-old cyclist and knocked him down with her car; a fireman repeatedly bashed the head of a cyclist against a wall; a cyclist threw his bike at the windscreens of a car. Martin Shaw was attacked by a bus-driver after shouting at him for cutting him up as he cycled down a London street.

No matter how much cyclists believe they are doing the rest of the world a favour, the rest of the traffic – whether motorised or on foot – does not agree.

"They're a menace," said one man, walking his dog gingerly along the pavement. "They take no notice of red lights or pedestrians, whether it's a pram or a pushchair. What's worse, they knock you over as they cycle past, and then look back with a gesture of contempt. In the great battle for the pecking order, they think they have moral superiority. They feel they're victims of trucks, but to us pedestrians they are just as much bullies as any trucks."

London cabbies are scarcely less irate, but the object of their ire are other road users of all descriptions. Raymond Games, a 47-year-old London taxi-driver, said: "What amazes me is so many pedestrians act like they're blind. I've seen a woman walk straight into the path of a cab in front of me – bam!" He thumps his fist into his hand. "I used to keep wary all the time,

but now, if get another idiot stepping off the kerb without looking, I don't know that I'll slow down, even if I can". His mate, a spindly chap who didn't want to give his name, blames motorbikes. "You're sitting at the lights and five of those couriers slip in and stand in front of you. You gotta try not to lose it in this job, but I've half a mind

sick of getting out of their way when they do something stupid. In a car I can just put my foot down in this and get out of trouble." Others are more protective of the vulnerable creatures on two wheels. "This guy was driving like an idiot in this Goff on the A3," said Paul Ross, a 31-year-old researcher who had stopped for petrol

*'I used to keep wary all the time, but now, if I get another idiot stepping off the kerb without looking I don't know that I'll slow down even if I can'*

to step on it and flatten 'em all." He laughs wheezily. "Maybe I could get stickers, like stick one inside my cab for everyone I get."

"If cyclists want to cut me off, that's their problem," said Wayne McKinsey, who was reloading his red Peugeot 305 GTI at the Texaco station on the Talgarth Roundabout. "I'm not trying to hit them, but I'm

"He was weaving in and out of all the busy lanes, and he almost killed a guy on a motorcycle – he had to swerve to get out of his way." So did Paul take him on?

"No, I called the local police station on my mobile phone and told them what was going on. They said they'd go round to his house with a warning."

On London's Embankment last week, several hundred cyclists gathered at the height of the evening rush hour to test the tempers of other road users in the monthly Critical Mass run. This event is replicated in cities across the world; it involves a gang of cyclists stretching across one entire side of a road and pedalling at their own pace to a destination chosen at random by the lead cyclists. "Last time we ended up having a party in a disused petrol station on the City Road," says one of the organisers, "with music from pedal-powered hi-fi system."

Patrick Field, head of the London Cycling School, brings a Sufi philosophy to the battlefield: "I don't get angry at motorists; I feel sorry for them," he says. This approach makes life much easier during confrontations. "I tell them there's no need for bad language, and ask if they've had a bad day."

In the end, he says, "it's not cyclists that hold them up. It's other cars." So they're just jealous.

The cyclists on Critical Mass believe that bogging the road is a neat turn-

around from the normal situation when they are squeezed out, often dangerously, by motor vehicles.

Even the normally serene spokeswoman from the Department of Transport was moved to fury when I brought up the question of which gang, statistically, was most dangerous to belong to.

"I'll tell you what's dangerous," she snapped. "It's bloody dangerous to be a pedestrian, because of all the cyclists on the bloody pavement! That's what's dangerous. You tell them it's illegal, I got rear-ended walking down Whitehall last week."

One cyclist claimed to have been flattened more than once by motorists – and in one case, a black cab – pulling out of side turnings without looking.

"You're completely vulnerable," he said. "Drivers tear past you without leaving an inch to spare. They just never look for you."

She also had an explanation for the fury so often displayed by cyclists in any confrontation with drivers – one which the good citizens of Weston-super-Mare might do well to heed.

"It's fear."

## You're never too young to be old

How does it feel to be old? Twenty-five-year-old Alex Hayes put on goggles, ear plugs and a helpless manner and went to find out

WHEN YOU are young and fit, it's hard to sympathise with the limitations of old age. Young people are more likely to see and rev their engines than to empathise with the little old lady wobbling slowly across the road.

With the aim of increasing understanding of the handicaps of old age, I have been muscled into taking part in Through Other Eyes – a scientific experiment to raise people's awareness of a very real social problem. In other words, show us how it actually feels to be old. I was escorted on this mission by Gaby Brooks and Sharon Steele of Age Concern.

Age Concern believes that most of the younger population have no idea how difficult it is for some elderly people to perform everyday tasks such as open a milk carton or shop, let alone deal with more arduous chores. "Our ultimate aim is for people to realise how their mother or granny might feel," explains Ms Steele. "Once you see how your close relatives are struggling, your attitude towards the aged automatically changes. The next time you're at a supermarket till or behind a slow-moving elderly lady in the street, you're likely to show more patience."

The experiment involves wearing ankle and wrist weights to simulate loss of strength and agility, putting on specially prepared goggles, to represent cataracts, tunnel vision and retina damage, and inserting ear plugs to reduce hearing.

According to the charity's research, "the United Kingdom is an ageing society and, by the year 2026, half the adult population will be aged 55 or over. It is also significant that 80 per cent of the UK's private wealth is in the hands of people over 50, who are also the biggest spenders in every sector".

The combination of these two impairments was truly challenging. When paying for some flowers, which I could barely see, I struggled desperately to get change out of my pocket, let alone differentiate between the various coins.

Had my manner changed significantly when I was "old"? "You were definitely affected," says Ms Steele. "When you were buying the flowers, you cocked your

head to hear the vendor clearly. And you crossed the street over-cautiously, even though the traffic had stopped."

So will I now be more sympathetic towards older people? "The aim of the workshop is not for people to feel sorry for the aged and tip-toe around them. A lot of them actually cope very well with their disabilities. What we're trying to say is that there's no need for some of the present barriers to be there."

These "barriers" are often small, seemingly insignificant obstacles, which prove insurmountable for the elderly. "For example, the colour schemes that some organisations use to promote their products prevent older people from seeing the price on the tag. Another example is the excessive use of mirrors in shops. It can be very confusing and disorientating. These are artificial barriers; aesthetic additions which serve no practical purpose. I mean, why put a stair in a building if it's not needed?"

Age Concern has carried out its workshop in large companies such as Safeway

and Nestle. The workshops take half a day, cost between £595 to £895, and can accommodate a maximum of 12 people. And the scheme is making waves. Earlier this year British Gas agreed to sponsor them. "They give us money to develop the programme, market it and renew some of the equipment."

On a personal level, my greatest achievement was threading a needle and sewing a button on to a piece of fabric despite my blurry vision and shaking hands. Now, for someone with a dreadful sewing record (one poorly sewn shirt-button in 25 years), this was no mean feat. Ironically, though – now that the contraptions have been removed – I will have to wait 40 odd years before I sew as expertly again. In the meantime, old people around Britain will continue raking it in on Bingo night. That's the injustice of being young.

For further information about Age Concern, call 0800 09 99 66; or contact Sharon Steele on 01543 504640 or Gabriella Brooks on 0181 679 8000



Alex Hayes wearing Age Concern's pensioner simulator

## REVELATIONS

RALPH STEADMAN, LOUISVILLE, 1970



DO YOU want to meet an ex-hell's angel who shaves his head?" Being in America to look for work, my reply was yes. That's how I found this buddy, this soul mate, Hunter S Thompson: our assignment was to cover the prestigious Kentucky Derby in Louisville. There was this big guy with a clipped bone head – it looked like a bullet – set on shoulders that didn't need any more muscle. Hunter could have been an American footballer. He had huge feet size 12 or even 14 – in these flat plimsoll-type things he used to wear. I've always tried to find a pair of shoes to suit me, but he found one early on. Hunter found out everything early on; he wanted to be a great writer but was rejected by the Athenaeum Literary Heritage Club of Louisville. So he was home to enact some kind of revenge. He didn't want a photographer, he wanted an artist who could find the face of Kentucky. I thought: Jesus, he's lived a totally different life to me. I was 33; most people would be in

their stride by then but I wasn't. But Hunter had been told I could give as good as I got, and I did. I climbed into his red whale of a car, with two buckets of beer on ice behind the front seats, and went to meet his brother. So far I had made no sketches, or notes, too intimidated to do either. But my head was buzzing with strange impressions. I pull back, mentally impressing a spring. What I don't realise is just how intensely I am watching someone, fascinated by a blemish on their nose or the way an eye works. I thought drawing was a bona fide activity and in England people treasure caricatures of themselves – perhaps the ruder the better, because you've got to make them laugh. What I didn't realise is that in different cultures, and Kentucky is a different culture, it's an insult. They are quite likely to ask you to step outside, and beat the shit out of you. I started drawing Hunter's brother and made it darker and darker and more hideous as lines covered lines. Hunter started fidgeting and

making lame excuses until he told me I had a nasty habit. I asked him what he meant? "You keep doing filthy drawings of people. They are beginning to look at you and become horrified, unable to believe it's really them that you're drawing. It is obscene; you've got to stop it!" In fact, Hunter had to Mace a restaurant in Kentucky so we could escape alive. I remember a black tube and a fine hissing sound. My eyes began to sting and everybody screamed. Hunter yelled at me to get out! What he did was even worse – all I do is look at people. But he saved me. It was the first time I realised that what I do can be construed as a rather unpleasant habit. How dare I make these rather presumptuous comments about somebody I'm staring at?

The act of Gonzo might be just as mindless as soccer hooligans

but Hunter and I went out of our way to actually do something – making out that we were bona fide journalists covering the Kentucky Derby. We got in because I was speaking in my

different types of leeches doing the same thing.

Hunter also taught me that when I was doing something outrageous to double the outrage. Together we slipped in between the boats in the America's cup to write: FUCK THE POPE along the side of one of them with a spray can. We did have some noble purpose, though it was a jailable offence. These boats were manned by rednecks, some of them Catholics, and the idea of seeing them sailing into the harbour with that graffiti on their hull was a brilliant political concept. We then rushed back to our boat and let off distress flares up into the bay, to symbolise our failure, and set some yachts on fire. It deflected attention, and we were able to get away.

I had the idea that there was a wicked world out there, my mother defended me so well.

Hunter would criticise me for

being so English and "nice" – it's

a horrible word. I needed to meet somebody to blast me out of that cocoon. It took me a long time to

reach the frame of mind where I decide the image – irrespective of the story that I'm illustrating. I don't give a shit if somebody understands it or not. I like it. I appreciate it and if I'm enjoying it – someone else will too. That's something else I learnt from Hunter: "if you're chicken-livered, forget it. You'll never achieve anything. But if you want to take the ride, you pay for the whole ride." The edge can be very creative. It made me realise who the real enemy are; I know who I'm after. Previously my anger had no purpose or direction. I chose to draw one person over another normally out of the desire to throttle them. Not a murderous thought, just that I couldn't stand the way their nose twitched; how some people moved their mouth was infuriating. I was going through life unable to stand the sight of people. Meeting Hunter S Thompson made me laugh at it. By easing off, I began to do outrageous things with my cartoons instead.

If I go on making mischief, I

think it will be more in books – I'm not very keen on the fish-wrap approach of newspapers. If I'm doing something I want it to last, so people can look back at an opinion from that time and discover that it may still be relevant. But it would be funny if someone tried wrap fish and chips in my new book, perhaps I should buy a portion and eat them out of it! That's Gonzo!

I have curbed my tendency to stare, judge and hate people partly with the help of therapy, because I began to think it was me that was the problem. I did three months; strangely enough the therapist's name was Dr Thompson... I think it would be worse if I stopped drawing, and didn't recycle my observations. It could become very unhealthy – at least now there is an excuse. It's for art, so I can do anything I want. Otherwise I'd be prosecuted as a stalker.

Gonzo – The Art is published by Weidenfeld & Nicolson, price £25

INTERVIEW BY ANDREW G MARSHALL



# Towards a perfect monotony

**Willie Doherty's political artwork has avoided both propaganda and emotional indulgence for an intense view of the deadlock in Northern Ireland.** By Tom Lubbock

I used to know someone, a member of the Socialist Workers Party, whose big put-down for those she called "post-modernists" was to say that, for them, the revolution was something that happened in art galleries. She had a point. You do find people - usually writing in art magazines - who seem to think that way. They fervently analyse, pro or contra, the political import of some artwork, without any practical reference to political life outside the gallery, without even noticing the omission. But then, what's the right way to think of the relation between what happens in the gallery and in the public world beyond?

Political art is liable to lose out every way. If it makes direct statements, it's called propaganda, and told that it's wasting its energy, or acting in bad faith, because the art audience is tiny and probably immune too. If it offers more oblique meditations, it's accused of indulgence, evasion and obscurity; what's wanted are clear declarations and commitments. And whatever it does, it's likely also to be judged by the most touchy standards, as if it really were going to make all the difference in the world. Political art often finds itself in a role which reverses that proverbially enjoyed by the press: minimum power, maximum responsibility.

And sometimes it knows this. At the Tate Gallery in Liverpool, Willie Doherty has a kind of retrospective, just opened and titled "Somewhere Else". Doherty is his subject, since the mid-1980s, has been the politics of Northern Ireland. His medium is photos with words, and videos with sound-tracks. It's an art acutely - almost oppressively - conscious of its limitations and responsibilities. It never looks very hopeful either.

Here's an example, a video piece called *At the End of the Day*. In a small dark room, projected onto one wall, you see: view from

A lot of things are noticeable by their absence.

Take another, largely audio, piece.



'Bullet Holes': violent action is never represented in Doherty's work, only its results, in high finish

James Austin

*They're All the Same*. Here you see a still slide projection of a young man's face, accompanied by an array of very monotonous voice-over, which delivers three sorts of statements alternately: 1. I am a crazy killer; for example "I am ruthless and cruel". 2. I am a noble struggler ("I am proud and dedicated"). 3. lyrical description of landscape ("The soft Atlantic rain which seems to cover the whole country adds depth and subtlety to its colour"). Of course, the last element is pretty important, because otherwise the piece would just say that one person's terrorist is another's freedom fighter. The nature sentiment complicates things. It could well be shared by both sides. It could be the common ground that both are fighting for and over. Or it could come from a tourist board, trying to put the Troubles out of the visitor's mind.

A lot of things are noticeable by their absence.

No violent action is represented, only its results, in high finish: close-up, colour photos of a car's bullet-holed bodywork, or blown-out french windows, or a burnt out van left by the roadside. These things are taken out of context, specifically, taken out of the context of dramatic reportage, presented absolutely flat. Indeed there's very little human incident at all in Doherty's work - no images of paramilitaries, or security forces, or parades, raids, stand-offs, funerals, or any of the well known "sights" (with their well known emotional incitements). You get a lot of unpeopled views of town and country, where the human presence is only in the viewpoint implied - as in photos titled *At the Border - Walking towards a Military Checkpoint* (a leafy lane in perfect perspective with nothing else visible)

and *Critical Distance* (a townscape at night, as seen from a surveillance camera). And if you wonder where Doherty stands himself, it seems to be a matter of negatives. He observes a studied neutrality as between loyalist and nationalist causes. He is deeply sceptical of all the standard languages: mediatic, political, security or terrorist. He insists on everybody's blank incomprehension of everybody else. He's scrupulously down-beat. As for the emotional charge of the work, I'd almost call it an intense boredom. Obviously that sounds rude, but I take this effect to be deliberate, and to involve various motives: careful avoidance of anything flashy or sensational in the presentation; stern discouraging of all stock responses; creating a sense of depressed inurement, of the wearing everyday anxiety of checkpoints, barriers, surveillance, outrages; and a sense of the rigid entrenchment of all positions. And it is a real intensity.

Whether Doherty's work has, in addition, a margin of quite gratuitous boringness, I'm not sure. But a more important issue is its apparently inflexible pessimism. And an obvious point, of course, is: so what about now? The peace process and the Good Friday agreement? How does Doherty deal with that? Well there's only one piece from 1998, a complex video installation, *Somewhere Else*, which would need about 500 words to describe - but suffice to say that no breakthrough seems to be registered here either. Nor would you really expect that from an art that's been till then so spectacularly unmoved by hopes of any sort.

Least of all the hope that it might make much difference to anything. Indeed, one can think that Doherty's work holds its place within the art gallery just too securely. For isn't its take on its subject exactly the artistic position? Our art loves deadlocks, hates breakthroughs. (What a let down it, on the fiftieth repeat the road-block was gone and the car kept going...) At any rate, making the Troubles so strongly into art, Doherty makes you aware how very remote the contemporary artistic virtues - a laconic irony, contradictions held in resonant stasis, brooding menace - are from those of the negotiating table.

Willie Doherty - *Somewhere Else*: Tate Gallery Liverpool, Albert Dock, Liverpool; until 3 October; admission £3, concs £1.50

## A fine brush with violence

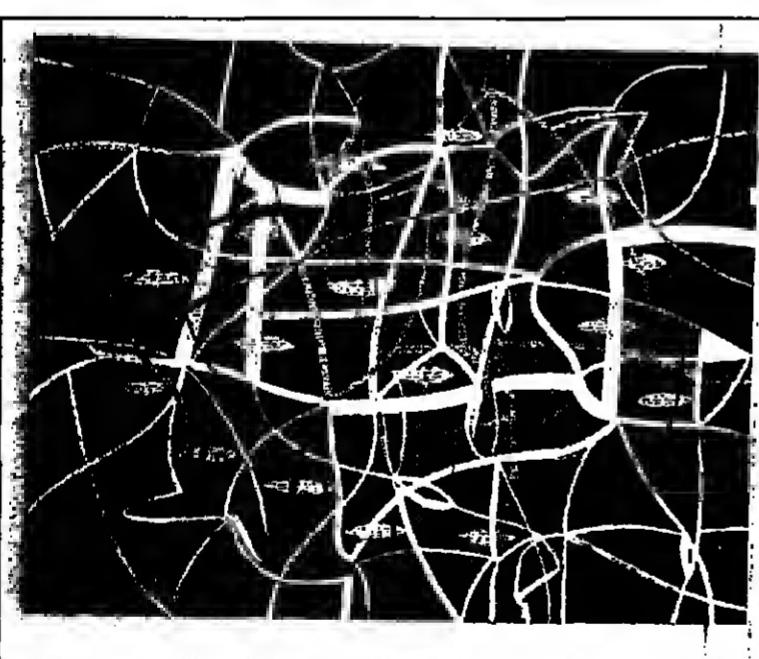
**Photographic realism, linear abstraction - Maurice Cockrill has painted in many styles but all his work captures the implicit turmoil of nature.** By David Cohen

MAURICE COCKRILL'S subject is the turbulence of nature and the violence brought on by change, whether growth or destruction is winning through. The environment and the elements seethe with both vitality and danger, and as if to reflect this dichotomy, Cockrill's painterly treatment oscillates between elegance and awkwardness.

This restlessness permeates not just individual images but the shape of Cockrill's painting output. Works from the last 10 years are the subject of a fulsome and energetic retrospective at the Royal West of England Academy in Bristol. Even within this timespan, which represents less than half of his career, there is an extraordinary diversity of temper and style. Richly troubled landscapes in organic hues at one end of the show jar with hermetically abstract linear configurations in unearthly colours at the other. The same relentless force of nature which spawns life and terminates it seems to keep Cockrill on the move, preventing him from settling down comfortably into his own genre or style.

While this makes for an exciting body of work, it hasn't helped Cockrill's reputation. Despite wonderful handling of materials, an unquestionable painterly authority, the admiration of fellow artists (Paula Rego and John Hoyland among them) and the confidence of dealers and collectors, the lack of a trademark icon has deprived him of success. Part of the problem is that he only arrived on the London scene in the early 1980s, starting his career afresh. Twenty years before that were spent in Liverpool, where he was well-known as a realist, installing huge billboard-like portraits of casual passers-by in Lime Street Station (a project funded by the Arts Council) and painting urban landscapes with deadpan photographic precision.

Dissatisfaction with that led to a decisive break. First there were violently choppy neo-Expressionist figure paintings inspired by visits to the National Gallery, often dealing with mythological subjects about the battle between the sexes (they were exhibited in the Düsseldorf Kunstmuseum in 1985). These gave way to landscapes charged with a similar sense of disturbance and edgeiness. A series titled *Song of the Earth* justified the allusion to Mahler because, like his music, a gorgeous lyricism



Maurice Cockrill: 'Magnus 4 - Red Rain' (1998)

learned to live with strange abrasions and unsettling dissonances.

Cockrill is probably best known for such landscapes. At the time he was represented by the Bernard Jacobson Gallery which was at the commercial forefront of the 1980s revival of interest in the British romantic tradition, trading in such figures as Bomberg, Lanyon and Hitchens.

Cockrill's work related to these forebears, along with Nash and Sutherland, and fitted the ethos of the critic Peter Fuller who argued, in Ruskinian terms, for modern landscape painting embodying spiritual yearnings. Cockrill's landscapes take an unsentimental view of nature; his landscape, like that of his own childhood in North Wales, is post-industrial, scarred and brooding. His painting is both tempestuous and infused with hope in its richness and affirmative colour. For those after "redemption through form" (Fuller's catchphrase), Cockrill looked positively messianic.

This period was a highlight for Cockrill. His works sold well, and Margaret Drabble wrote a monograph about him. And yet, perhaps precisely because of

his association with Romanticism, he must have been perceived in some quarters as suspect - conservative or not anti-Modernist. The Tate has still to buy its first Cockrill and the Arts Council hasn't supported him since he left Liverpool. His former city, however, has not forgotten him.

In 1995, he was the subject of a full-scale retrospective at the Walker, which owns his tremendously ambitious and involving series of elliptical canvases from 1990, the *Seasons*. Within these suggestively egg-shaped canvases, a hustle of forms - pods, seeds, flaming hearts, loops, leaves, crystalline cellular structures - seem on the brink of becoming harbingers of symbolic meaning but jealously guard their potency.

These four pieces dominate the first gallery of the West of England Academy as once again the regions take up the cudgels on Cockrill's behalf. Bristol's RWA, an architectural marvel with its wonderful 19th century galleries, has a lively and courageous exhibition policy which deserves national recognition.

An artist who struck such a rich vein in his *Seasons* would have been justified in sticking with it, exploring subtle vari-

tions and turning the private iconography and lexicon of marks and gestures into his trademark style. But Cockrill moved on, questioning the voluptuousness of his own facility in extreme form by adopting wooden MDF doors as his support and - a graphic acknowledgement of implicit violence - "drawing" over the surface of the panel with an axe. Disappointingly, these *Entrances* of 1991 are excluded from the Bristol show. Instead, the curator, Ann Elliott (formerly of the British Council and Sculpture at Goodwood) concentrated on his most recent work, which has taken a turn towards lyrical abstraction.

But this is not such a sudden jump, as the show demonstrates. Cockrill is not so much stylistically promiscuous as dialectical: once he has followed one course, he always counters with a kind of opposition, although one that grows out of an unexpected aspect of his previous work, all of which informs, at some level, the synthesis which constantly beckons. Out of *Entrances* came the series *Wheat*, which gradually lost its symbolic literalness in a series called *Generation*. In these, an amorphous shape, within which nestle organic growths and landscape vistas, floats against a bright, almost garish monochrome ground.

It was here that a new kind of mark introduced itself. Detached from the rest of the composition, lasso or anchor-like forms provide some kind of commentary on the rest of the scene. As marks they are elegant, lyrical and spontaneous. This pulled up short viewers who thought they were used to the sumptuous Expressionism of his 1980s landscapes. In his latest series, *Elements*, dense webs of different coloured line evoke wateriness or fire. Seen on their own they look at first like 1950s salon abstraction, or some ironic, retro comment about such material, but in relation to Cockrill's private language and development they are a challenging dialectical statement. It's tantalising to imagine what's next.

Maurice Cockrill is at the Royal West of England Academy, Bristol, to 19 September. The exhibition will be shown in reduced form at Purdy Hicks Gallery, London, from 25 September to 17 October.

## INDEPENDENT COLLECTOR

JOHN WINDSOR'S GUIDE TO BUYING AFFORDABLE CONTEMPORARY ART

PURE WHITE and delicately modelled, this porcelain cast of an infant's dress by Tiziano Bendall-Brunello seems to contain the breath of life. It speaks of the fragility of childhood and the fleetness of time.

The Italian-born artist has already earned a reputation for her glass bowls in which gold, silver and copper is embedded, and for her glass architectural panels. But it is her casts of socks, shoes - and now little dresses - that she feels impelled to make between commissions, that have caught the eye of exhibition curators.

Janine Blackburn, the independent curator, has put her porcelain dress in her current "Spirit of the Age" exhibition at the Bowes Museum, Barnard Castle, County Durham, and her pair of lead-crystal stiletto-heeled shoes were in this summer's "Absolute Cobblers" exhibition at the Barbican. Next month, the Hayward Gallery will show the *Fragments*, in its series *Wheat*, which gradually lost its symbolic literalness in a series called *Generation*. In these, an amorphous shape, within which nestle organic growths and landscape vistas, floats against a bright, almost garish monochrome ground.

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So it is a pity that about four out of five crumble or distort into macabre shapes during firing at 1280C. She discards them. The survivors - only four so far - emerge with the fabric incinerated without trace and having acquired a subtle movement of their own. "It's not like carving the drapery of a stone statue," she says. "You have to stand back and let the firing process take its own course". The latest, to which she has become most



Bendall-Brunello's porcelain dress James Austin

attached, has braced its tiny shoulders and puffed out its chest.

One of her inspirations is the Sixties Italian *arte povera* artist Giuseppe Penone, especially his ceramic life-size human figure, "Breath", cast in negative so that the empty cavity seems to materialise.

Reaction to the little porcelain dress is mixed. One viewer, overheard by Bendall-Brunello, called it "The epitome of poetry". Another said: "Oh, god, it's difficult to look at, it's so ghostly". To me, it looks like one of those irresistibly nostalgic 18th century children's garments that turn up in trunks in the attics of the gentry - the last remnant of a life, perhaps snuffed out before its time, now resurrected.

Her pair of slip-cast socks are more homely. They look as if they have just been cast off - crumpled, but still containing the shape of feet. "My work appears to be self-generating. I feel as if I'm following leads, picking up threads."

Prices: £450 - £2,200. Examples of her work will be in Sotheby's annual selling exhibition of contemporary decorative art in February.

Tiziano Bendall-Brunello (01223-411374)

# I'll be in Bollywood before ye

It may seem extravagant to bring an Indian film crew all the way to Paisley to film a six-minute sequence, but Bombay's film industry can easily afford it. And to the audience, Scotland is the ultimate exotic foreign location. By Richard Mowat

**AGAINST** A backdrop of heather, lochs, mountains and scudding clouds, a film crew watch an Indian couple apparently rehearsing a traditional dance. Suddenly the sound of sitar music blasts from a couple of strategically placed speakers, causing any curious wildlife to dive for cover. As cameras whirr, the two actors - he in skin-tight jeans and leather jacket, she in miniskirt and modestly revealing blouse - embark on their paces with studied intensity and grand gestures.

Cut! The director, Karan Johar, rushes forward to declare himself well pleased with his protagonists' efforts. The crew, all warmly wrapped against the rigours of a Scottish summer, pack up, stow gear into assorted buses and vans then head off into a gathering dusk and their base in Glasgow, some four hours' drive away. The next day they can look forward to another dawn rise, and another scenic location along hazardous single-track roads from Loch Lomond to Glencoe.

"Bollywood", the term coined for India's film industry centered on Bombay, has come to Scotland to film part of a £1.5m blockbuster.

The two actors, Shah Rukh Khan and his leading lady Kajol, possess a level of stardom to eclipse the likes of Tom Cruise and Winona Ryder. While most of the crew of 35 have been accommodated, with their own chef, in a university hall of residence, Khan and Kajol bask in the luxury of a hotel.

In the film, *Kuch Kuch Hota Hai*, (Something Happened in My Heart) they play star-crossed lovers who dream of coming to Scotland. The six-minute musical sequence takes place in their imaginations.

Why Scotland? "Because to Indian eyes it's an exotic place - and we chose places for their scenic beauty and sense of history," says Yosh Kohar, the film's producer (and Karan Johar's father). "This is a Romeo and Juliet story. She comes from an old-fashioned background; he follows her home, and eventually wins her family's heart."



In a remote Scottish valley, Karan Johar's film crew settle down to film a dream sequence with Shah Rukh Khan and Kajol (left) dancing in the heather.

Kohar's Bombay colleagues thought him "crazy" to go all the way to Scotland with a huge crew for this short sequence. "But this part has to be more beautiful than anything else in the film, and you cannot manufacture that in a studio," he says.

The producer helps to fund his film-making activities through an export business. "We make more films than any other country in the world, including the States - around 700 a year. And the quality is improving. The Americans would think nothing of coming to Scotland for such a short shoot, so why shouldn't we?"

He was lucky to get Khan. At home, the star would be mobbed everywhere. He managed to survive

incognito in Scotland until the last day when the news broke among the Asian community. The local paper's headline was: "Exclusive - Indian movie megastar in Paisley". As a result a handful of girls waited patiently at the hotel to catch a glimpse of their idol. "We can't believe he's here in Scotland. I've seen every film he's ever made," said one. "We know everything there is to know about him; unfortunately he's married, and has a child, but we still like him. He can be the hero or the bad guy, and he's also very funny. When he's in a serious role he makes me green [cry]."

If Khan is a *Cruise* clone who has

made 26 films in the last four years,



from close quarters. "There's a very ad hoc attitude to shooting. Normally you would have everything prepared down to the last detail. With them, you'd be driving along the shores of a loch, and they would say: 'That looks nice, let's stop here.' At one point they blocked a single-track road, and we had to come back to move everything for a forestry lorry." Cowl was not amused. "They thought they could shoot anywhere without permission, including the ruins of St Andrew's Cathedral where they let off explosives. We didn't even know they were coming until after the event."

"They think nothing of working a 12- or even 14-hour day. At Fort William one day their coach broke down, and they hired taxis to take them to the location." Local businesses had no complaints: the Indians parted with £40,000 during their stay, hiring a Scottish location manager, lighting and special effects crew who, bizarrely, had to manufacture a rainstorm to order.

Scotland has begun to acquire a reputation in Bollywood. Last year the director Dev Anand came to the Highlands to make *Desire*, helped by a Dundee restaurateur, Tony Hussain, who says: "Usually Indian film-makers think of Switzerland but Scotland has more to offer. I think of myself as a promoter: I was born here, but I want to give something back."

Bollywood's escape to Scotland will hit screens on 14 October, which has been deemed the equivalent of America's Independence Day prime slot for launching a movie. In addition to the 600 prints at home, almost 100 copies will be shown at the same time throughout the world in cities with sizeable Asian populations including London, Glasgow, Edinburgh, Birmingham, Bristol and Leicester.

On that day Johar can expect queues round the block as fans in Delhi and Bombay jostle for admittance to the first show. That's a Bollywood tradition the moguls of LA would willingly trade.

Then Kohar must be a close copy of Steven Spielberg. He worked as a production executive with several of the big studios in Bombay before opting to set up independently. "What I make from my business activities, I plough into my films. It is a passion. Film-making all over the world is a gamble, just like going to the race-course and seeing who the trainer is, and the rider, and assessing the pedigree and the form. My son always wanted to work in the cinema. He was an assistant on a film, *People with Heart Will Take the Bride Away*, written by a friend, which was a huge hit. Khan was also starring in it, and he suggested my son should direct this film."

Kohar detects a return to a taste for romance among Indian audiences; every day 15 million go to the cinema, paying 40 rupees (or 75p). "For the last four or five years we followed the pattern for high budget action movies from the West. Now love is back. Our audiences are poor and we have to provide what they want. Rich Indians have tennis, golf and racing, but the ordinary person only has cinema. When they buy a ticket, they want to spend three hours at least in front of the screen. I know that if I made a film of 90 minutes it would be a flop."

"They want songs, comedy, tragedy and romance; they would never accept boy meets girl, and a kiss right away. You have to take time to establish a relationship."

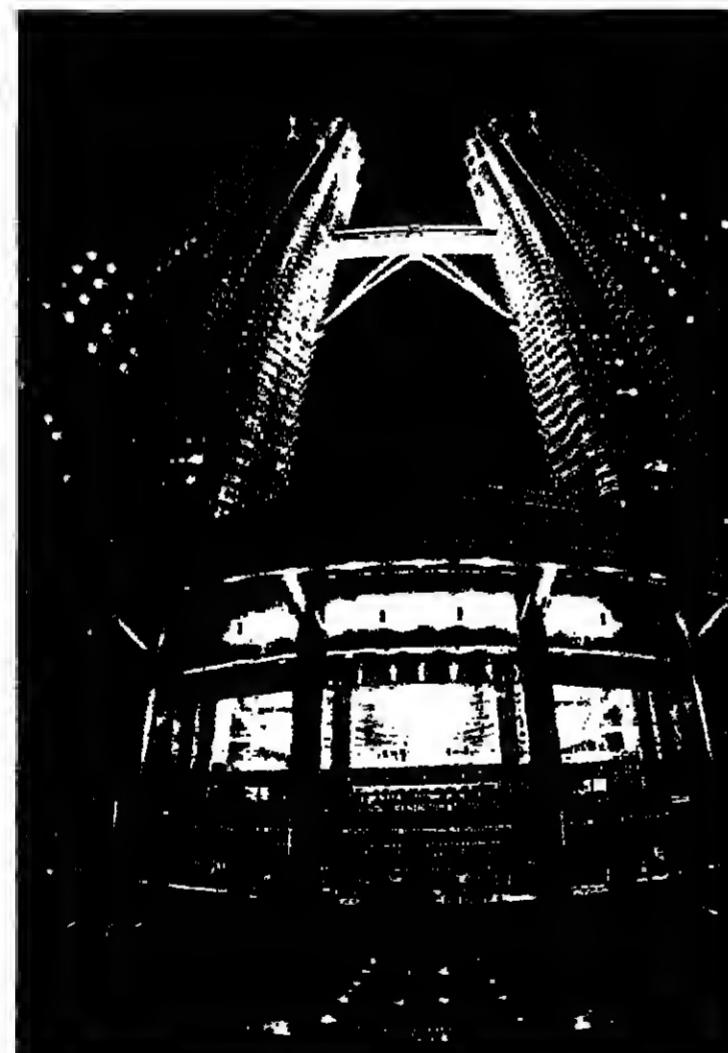
"Yes, now lovers can kiss on screen, providing it is not vulgar. But the censor allows only a couple of kisses per film."

Most of the films are so culturally specific that they baffle foreign audiences. One prevalent plot is to remake Hollywood hits - there have been three versions of *Mrs Doubtfire* and as many of *Sleeping with the Enemy* and *Indecent Proposal*. Male stars are usually strong of jaw and clear of eye; females are pallid and compliant.

Working practices are relaxed. Kevin Cowl, Scottish Screen's location manager, observed the shoot

## A dream between the twin towers

Decadent Western music is coming to Muslim Malaysia. But who really benefits? By Michael Church



The new symphony hall at the foot of the Twin Towers. **IMG**

HOSTING THE Commonwealth Games was always going to be a moment of truth for Kuala Lumpur, and the timing now is cruel. A collapsing currency has littered the Malaysian capital with abandoned projects - shattered shops, half-built ghost-towns, concrete pillars supporting an invisible monorail - but amazingly, the key things are bang on target. The stadium is up-and-running, and something remarkable has appeared at the base of the Petronas Twin Towers - the world's tallest building - like a silver football trapped between the feet of a giant.

A symphony hall is a must for any Far Eastern country wishing to Westernise itself, but this one - with its brand-new orchestra - reflects an extraordinary melding of cultures, where British musicians have been the catalyst. For Muslim Malaysia has traditionally viewed Western music as decadent: the classical torch has been carried by the ethnic-Chinese business class, who routinely put their offspring through British piano grades. And in Malaysia the cultured Chinese are represented by poorer Malays as the Jews were in turn-of-the-century Vienna. This inferiority-complex is what Prime Minister Mahathir terms "the Malay dilemma", and resolving that dilemma through job-quotas has long been the policy of the government.

But orchestras are not assembly-lines, and violinists aren't created overnight. When the state-owned Petronas oil company decreed a resident orchestra for their new concert hall, they asked the London branch of IMG Artists to set it up. The resulting band is preponderantly American, British, and Hungarian, with just four Malaysians who are all - surprise, surprise! - ethnic Chinese, including a young harpist found studying in Manchester. Is this yet another snub for the Malays?

No, because Petronas chairman Tan Sri Azizan is playing a long and clever game. On hearing that a Malaysian woman conductor called Chean Si Ooi was working in Germany, he sent IMG to check her out. It emerged that she had long been trying to found a Malaysian symphony orchestra and she is now resident conductor in Kuala Lumpur. Meanwhile, Tan Sri appointed as his music director the Dutch conductor, Kees Bakels, who is determined, like Chean Si, to nurture any local composing talent that he comes across. "Even if the quality isn't great, I'd rather do something Malaysian than import high-grade, ready-made stuff from China or Japan."

As general manager - the lynchpin of any orchestra - Tan Sri chose John

Duffy, a former LSO boss whose gilt-edged reputation drew a flood of applications from players in Britain and America. Indeed, I have never encountered a more contented bunch than the players I meet here, and not just because pay and conditions are so good. "Creating this orchestra has been a dream," says Duffy. "Starting off with no prior ill-feeling between players and management, we've been able to design a contract which is right for the local situation." The unique thing about this contract is that it stipulates that every player should also teach, which brings us to Tan Sri's next goal: a full-scale conservatoire in Kuala Lumpur, from which his orchestra will eventually be staffed.

As it happens, there already is a conservatoire of sorts, in a scatter of bungalows 10 miles outside town. Just two years old, this is part of the rapidly-expanding University Putra Malaysia, and it only exists because its vice-chancellor asked the Birmingham-trained Malaysian percussionist Minni Ang to create a campus orchestra. To have an orchestra, she replied, you first need a music department, so hey presto! she got one. The full orchestra has to rehearse on the lawns, which can be problematic in the rainy season, and the paper-thin walls of the bungalows let all the practitioners hear each other, which makes for a merry din. But these students work with such intensity that nobody cares about privacy, and miracles duly happen.

The miracle I encounter goes by the name of Loo Fung Chiat, a sly 21-year-old who delivers Chopin with thunder and lightning, and who tells me her goal is a scholarship to London. I predict she'll get one with ease, but that's

when the world of music begins.

More seriously, anything on which a Zionist construction might be put is out of the question. *Esqaf* would be banned on textual grounds, not because its composer Mendelssohn was a Jew. But in Malaysia, which has no diplomatic relations with Israel, Jewishness in performers is another hazard. Chean Si recalls the day a youth orchestra she was bringing was nearly stopped at the border because one girl was Israeli: they only got through thanks to intercession by Malaysia's First Lady, who happened to be one of their patrons. And then there are the Jewish performers who

refuse to come: Kees Bakels speaks with contempt of the virtuous - no names, but we can guess - who won't play in Malaysia, but gladly do so in Muslim Turkey. Never mind, the indefatigable Yehudi Menuhin has booked to play in KL next year. Malaysians may observe prayers five times every Friday - the Petronas towers are equipped with mini-mosques for office-workers - but this is still one of the most moderate Muslim countries in the world.

Another of Ang's students is a father-of-three called Mizan, who bikes 100 miles each day for the privilege of learning the tuba. And as a Muslim he is prepared to answer a question which his fellow-students are too embarrassed even to discuss.

Why is it that local Islamists condemn Western music? "It's a question of instruments," he says. "Drums, for example, don't reflect us from thinking about life after death. Even the Prophet approved of music with rhythm, which spurred people to get

### 'Stringed instruments are morally dangerous'

- so beautiful they

make us forget our

higher purpose'

on with their lives. But strings are so beautiful that they make us forget about our higher purpose. That makes them morally dangerous."

Back at the Malaysian Philharmonic, people feel no less hedged about by religion. Tan Sri tells me of the problem he has had with "a small group who would like to use religious differences for political ends". Controversy focused on the concert hall's organ - seen by some as a Christian instrument. He has had it covered in Malaysian designs, and now it looks properly oriental. Meanwhile, any work with a text must be submitted for government approval before it's performed: grand opera, with its penchant for illicit liaisons, wouldn't stand a chance.

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## Back to barracks

### THEATRE

**BILOKI BLUES**  
NATIONAL YOUTH THEATRE  
LONDON

ONE OF the biggest problems for the National Youth Theatre is finding material for its young casts, aged 16 to 21. There are numerous plays packed with meaty roles, but while the experience of working on characters way beyond your playing age is essential, putting actors too young for their roles on stage in front of a paying audience is a different matter.

Sean Connery may be about to shoot a film in the Petronas Twin Towers, but the young Malaysian intelligentsia have their own reasons for ambivalence towards their new musical toy, particularly in a time of ferocious recession. "It's like Scarlett O'Hara buying a new dress while civil war is raging," says lawyer Sheena Gurbahasi, who goes on to warn the expat players to fine-tooth their contracts. "We in Malaysia are good at wooing foreigners to work for us, and then exploiting them once they're here." Eddie Koko, poet and music promoter, sees the orchestra as a calculated political statement. "Over the last 10 years our government has tried to remake Malaysia as a Western capitalist society, and to deny its multi-cultural, multi-religious nature. The orchestra is another evasion of these truths. While millions are poured into an imported musical culture, our own music is dying." Both these commentators want to see the Malaysian Philharmonic incorporate local instruments, and local musical forms. Since they have potential allies in Bakels and Chean Si, this reasonable wish may come true.

But the proof of the pudding is in the eating. Last week, after a ceremonial drum-roll by the Prime Minister, the new hall was christened. It's quite small and very pretty, reminiscent of Birmingham's Symphony Hall; its acoustics aren't great yet, but that's normal. And the orchestra was very decent for a first outing: Strauss, Rachmaninov and Ravel, plus two pieces of entirely forgivable tokenism. There being no world-class Malaysian violin prodigy, 13-year-old Vira Lee was imported from Korea to dazzle us, and dazzle she did; on the other hand, the "Malaysian Overture" by an indigenous young composer was a bit of a hoot (Rimsky-Korsakov not so much passed stoned).

This whole ambitious exercise may be an artificial transplant carried out by an act of political will but, put in the wider Asian context, it prompts an arresting thought. As Western symphonic tradition runs out of steam, a new one may now be rising in the East. The women get their turn in Brian Friel's *Dancing at Lughnasa* and the season climaxes with a grand-scale *Oedipus Rex* at the Bloomsbury Theatre. At the very least, casting directors scouting for fresh talent should look no further.

DAVID BENEDICT

# What a fine mess they got us in

Stan and Ollie have become victims of their own slapstick cliches. Now, 70 years after their first film, a new generation of funny men is acknowledging the original genius of Laurel and Hardy. By James Rampton

ONE CRITIC famously summed up the oeuvre of Laurel and Hardy with the succinct phrase: "They hit each other and fall over a lot." It is true that some people – particularly those from younger generations not steeped in slapstick – think, "oh no, here come Laurel and Hardy, I'd better duck to avoid the low-flying custard-pies." But even a cursory glance at their work reveals how unfair that assessment is.

The modern-day comedian Stewart Lee, himself part of a double act with Richard Herring, believes that the bowler-hatted duo should not be found guilty by association with their pre-War comedy peers. "When you were a kid and they used to put on old films in the morning, even at the age of five you realised that Charlie Chaplin didn't translate to the modern world and that Abbott and Costello, even when they were meeting Frankenstein, were the 'black and white' equivalent of Little and Large. Laurel and Hardy have been unfairly bracketed with all that."

Well, you can judge the comic double act for yourselves this week. To mark the 70th anniversary of *Should I Marry Men Go Home?* (1928), the first official Laurel and Hardy film, a selection of their best work is being released in cinemas and on video.

But just what made Stan and Ollie different from the cruder, knockabout humour of many of their contemporaries? For Al Murray, three-time Perrier nominee and another contemporary comic admirer, it is the pair's universality that distinguishes them. "Although they may appear slow compared with the high-speed, slam-dunk comedy we're used to now, they have it all. Their comedy operates on the principle that everyone may not have been to America or even worn a bowler hat, but everyone has met an idiot so you can identify with them pretty easily."

It is this Everyman quality that still appeals to Lois Laurel, Stan's 72-year-old daughter. "They're everyday people in everyday situations. We can laugh at the jams they get into – 'another fine mess' – because they could happen to anybody." Glenn Mitchell, who, as author of *The Laurel and Hardy Encyclopedia*, knows more about their work than is strictly necessary, recalls that "Jack Benny once said Laurel and Hardy wo't date because they don't rely on jokes per se, but on recognisable human situations that never alter".

Stewart Lee concurs: "Laurel and Hardy are completely timeless. It doesn't matter that their films are old. They're about power struggles in relationships, and everyone can relate to that because everyone has power struggles in relationships. Laurel and Hardy will never not be funny because people



Their comedy operates on the principle that everyone has met an idiot so you can identify with them pretty easily'

will always be bickering with their partners or friends or colleagues."

At the same time, Laurel and Hardy have a deep and touching fondness for each other which never descends into the rank sentimentality of which Chaplin is so often accused. "However frustrated they may become, they know they need each other," says Mitchell. "In *Below Zero* (1930), they're being roughed up in this café and Ollie is thrown out on the street. When he

realises Stan's not there, he is visibly distressed. He calls out for him and rushes back to bang on the door of the café. It turns out that Stan is in the rain barrel. But for a brief moment we see a very concerned Ollie prepared to risk life and limb to save his friend.

"It's very easy to dismiss them as knockabout comedians, but there's more to them than that. They have such grace and they're such gentlemen – it's not basic

clowning where fingers are poked in eyes. Despite occasional squabbles, they have compassion for each other and for other people, unless provoked beyond endurance. They have humanity to spare."

Lee also praises their spirit: "They're like Morecambe and Wise, in that Eric is allowed to pick on Ernie, but when other people try to do it, he defends him. Laurel and Hardy present a united front against outsiders. Also, they suffer in

such a dignified way. When things fall on their heads, they don't really get annoyed. Stan will just rub his head and wait for the next thing to land on his head. I like that thing of just accepting your doom."

These eulogies are all very well, but what relevance do Laurel and Hardy have to Nineies' humour? Aren't they just sepia-tinted curios fit only for intensive study by film and comedy anoraks? Not if modern practitioners are to be believed.

Morecambe and Wise, John Cleese, Stephen Fry, Steve Martin, French and Saunders, Reeves and Mortimer and Steve Coogan are among those who acknowledge the pair's influence. Lee Evans is another fan, a maniacally physical comedian who would seem to be a direct descendant: "I think that the comics of today can't help but be influenced by Laurel and Hardy," he says. "You watch their stuff, and you just think 'Wow!' Comedy owes those boys a lot."

According to Mark Little, another stand-up who revels in physicality, "it was work by those guys that inspired me. They didn't mind throwing themselves about a bit, and showing real courage in their comedy. They're like your mates, y'know?"

Further than that, a direct lineage can be traced from Laurel and Hardy down to specific modern-day comedy characters. Tony Robinson, for instance, did not have to look far for inspiration when creating the figure of Baldrick in *Blackadder*. "I absolutely admit that Stan Laurel, for one, was a great influence when I was developing my character. Baldrick wouldn't have been half the man he was if it hadn't been for Laurel and Hardy. Not that he was much of a man anyway..."

Similarly, Ardal O'Hanlon admits a debt to Laurel and Hardy in the genesis of his Father Dougal character in *Father Ted*. "When you look at some of the stuff we did, you can almost see Stan and Ollie in that situation. Like when Dougal and Ted tried to carry that piano up the stairs and it... oh, no, that was Stan and Ollie in *Music Box*! Well, you can see how easy it is to confuse *Father Ted* with *Laurel and Hardy*..."

Ah, yes. *The Music Box* (1932) – so many comedians' all-time favourite. I'll let Murray take up the story. "Stan and Ollie have to get this piano up an impossibly long flight of stairs, and much hilarity ensues. The moment that sums them up as a pair of know-nothing geniuses is when they have finally got it up the stairs and the postman says: 'Oh, you know you could have put it on your cart and brought it round the back on the road.' Stan and Ollie look at each other; they look at the piano, they look at the postman, and all this takes an eternity. Then they nod to one another and start to heave the piano back down the stairs to put it on the cart. Perfection." And quite a bit funnier than two men hitting each other and falling over a lot.

*Sons of the Desert* (1934), *Helpmates* (1932), *The Music Box* (1932) and *Way Out West* (1937) are re-released in cinemas nationwide on 4 September. Ten of *Laurel and Hardy's* best films are released on video on 7 September

## CD OF THE DAY

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ORCHESTRA/HERBERT BLOMSTEDT  
(DECCA 455 510-2. RECORDED 1996)

HERBERT BLOMSTEDT unfolds the drama of Brahms' Fourth Symphony like a sage relating a meaningful narrative. The opening is quiet – as marked – but with an underlying mobility that keeps the larger plan on permanent view. BLOMSTEDT moulds the little surges and swells that shape the violin line while keeping violins and cellos well within earshot. It's a strong performance, too: forceful when the strings soar a few bars later; or when horns and woodwinds pronounce the choppy second subject. How refreshing to encounter a conductor who underlines without resorting to phrasal distortion, so that salient points of musical argument register anew and the frame still holds.

So much happens in this performance, especially around the first movement's eerie development section. Passages that in other performances fly past like a familiar work-day landscape suddenly assume new-found significance. The sensation is rather like switching from an InterCity to the local slow train, though choice of tempo is less crucial than telling observation and texture.

ROBERT COWAN

## Soul power lifts the brothers Gibb

POP  
THE BEE GEES  
ROYAL SHOWGROUND DUBLIN



Three of a kind Rez

IT'S MIDNIGHT, and in a van caught in a two-mile tailback Gabriel Byrne is eulogising to three fair-haired friends about the Bee Gees, whom we and 35,000 others have just seen. He was not the sole celebrity. Irish PM Bertie Ahern said he'd be along, and Robbie Williams, opening for The Verve at Castle Slane, had plans to "chop down". Barry, Robin and Maurice have come some way from their boyhood in Chorlton, Manchester.

And yet, wherever they go, an aura of naughtiness hangs about them. Is it the name? Is it the bouffant hair and equine incisors so prominent in the early days? Those teeth, like wicket gates, haven't changed, and Barry still boasts a mane that bestows upon him the look of a troubled deity. Down the front, of course, the sight of the boys in the flesh caused women to overheat at the rate of one every 10 minutes, but from anywhere else you could only see them properly on video screens, with a backdrop of distant spires and the sombre Wicklow Mountains.

The brothers don't like touring, but with the *Saturday Night Fever* and *Grease* revivals, they'd be fools not to; an undemanding schedule will take them on to single shows

and cute, almost the ghost of Gibb sibling Andy, scenes from whose short life are played on the screens.

Bee Gees numbers are either strategic misses or, during their mid-period, the work of catalepsy, and the show sags with "Our Love (Don't Throw It All Away)" until the band is dismissed and the brothers unite for the close harmony only they can do – "Too Much Heaven", "New York Mining Disaster 1941" and the unbearably eloquent "I Started A Joke".

There's a break for the pipes and drums of the Manx national anthem (all three were born in the Isle of Man), then, with a sonic shriek, it's disco inferno. "Tragedy", "Grease" and "Jive Talkin'" come out fighting. "How Deep Your Love" is angelic, and "Stayin' Alive" justifies the legend of the Bee Gees on its own – as the videos show Travolta's hips, Maurice and Robin intone the song's orgasmic falsetto cadence ("uh, uh, uh, uh") and Barry, eternally on helium, squeaks: "You can tell by the way I use my walk/I'm a woman's man/No time to talk." In the annals of pop history, this is huffed white soul nonpareil.

GLYN BROWN

## A testing time for the apostles of Elgar

### PROMS

BBC SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA/BBC  
SYMPHONY CHORUS  
ROYAL ALBERT HALL

mandingly heard. The oratorio, in its grandeur of form, resembles a garland of memorable leitmotifs. Recalled in the flow of exuberant sound, these solid ideas – for the earthly kingdom, or be-rayal – surprise and delight the ear, regardless of the words they accompany.

This is just as well, a cynic might argue, for Elgar's text, compiled with a concordance-like wealth of gospel detail, both thrills the dramatic sense (in the Judas scenes, for example, resolutely sung by bass John Tomlinson, yet can also empty the stomach of all but the most devout admirers of the Word). Bathos and poetry are embedded side by side. A case in point occurs in the second part: Elgar's setting of that Sunday-school list of dubious credits, *The Beatitudes*. Another example concludes the first half: a routine fugato, "Thou art a God of the afflicted" leads to the hushed final bars where the "Turn you to the stronghold" motif, echoed on strings, is sheer magic.

No doubt of this kind as sallied the sextet of soloists, who in true oratorio fashion projected out strongly to a well-filled Albert Hall. The versatile Thomas Randle was comfortable in his roles as the narrator and John the Apostle. As Peter, bass-baritone Steven Page seemed a little under-powered in ensemble work, yet came into his own in the magnificent denial scene. Anthony Michaels-Moore's Jesus was held yet subtle, the real man that Elgar wished him to be. Dame Felicity Lott, soprano, robed in shimmering blue, sang the Blessed Mary and the Angel. Mezzo Catherine Wyn-Rogers sang the other Mary, with conviction portraying a woman undoe by rosebuds, wines and ointments.

This part, with its choral "fantasy", is generally thought the oratorio's weakest part. Yet here again, in the midst of some fairly dull music, was beauty: a ravishing cadence phrase, for clarinet and harp – perhaps a dropped stitch from the Overture in *The South*. Like so much else in *The Apostles*, it sounds too good to miss. By all means take it or leave it, but first make sure you know what it is you're missing.

NICHOLAS WILLIAMS

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# HEALTH

No breasts? You can still get breast cancer. And men who put off seeing a doctor about a lump are at high risk. By Roger Dobson

## You don't have to be female to get breast cancer

**STEPHEN WILSHERE** was returning home from a summer holiday when he felt a lump on his right breast. He was certain it had not been there before, and prodded again to make sure it was real. "It was a very hot Sunday, and I had put my hand under my shirt to scratch my shoulder when I felt this hard lump. I didn't say anything at the time... but the next day I showed my wife and she said I ought to see the doctor."

A few days later, after a biopsy, he was diagnosed with breast cancer and within a fortnight the ex-pilot and retired computer specialist had a mastectomy, followed by radiotherapy and treatment with tamoxifen.

Breast cancer affects one in 1,000 men, compared to one in 11 women. But a new study suggests that men who are high achievers may carry a much greater than average risk of the disease. Researchers found that rates were highest among graduates, men on high incomes, and those with assets of £25,000 plus.

Breast cancer in men and women is essentially the same disease, so researchers believe that studying it in men may be an effective way of investigating environmental causes.

Dr Ann Hsing and her team believe that the investigation of male breast cancer may provide unique clues about environmental and occupational risks that are difficult to detect in women. This is because

they can be masked by confounding factors such as pregnancy, breastfeeding and age at menstruation.

Male breast cancer is much rarer; but one of the problems is men's reluctance to see a doctor. While messages aimed at women have been highly successful in raising awareness of the disease and promoting self-examination, men are still in the dark ages of health education.

The worst aspect of male breast cancer is that men are dying of ignorance," says Professor Ian Fentiman, professor of surgical oncology at Guy's Hospital. "We are still finding that the average duration of symptoms is six to nine months.

"That's a long delay, and the reason is that men don't even think about it as a possibility. The real message is that if a man finds a lump on one side it needs to be looked at, particularly if it is not painful."

Treatment for male breast cancer is similar to that for women, but usually involves a mastectomy because there is too little tissue for more conservative surgery to be effective. It is usually backed up by removal of the lymph glands, radiotherapy for the chest wall and treatment with tamoxifen, which appears to have good results with hormone-sensitive male breast cancers.

Men get breast cancer seven years later than women, on average, but survival rates are almost exactly the same for both sexes if they report their symptoms at the same stage. However, the overall outcome is worse for men because they tend to get diagnosed much later.

One of the mysteries surrounding male breast cancer is the cause, especially in men who do not carry a gene that predisposes for the disease. Over the years a range of culprits have been looked at, including high-temperature jobs that may affect the testes, and overhead power cables which have been thought to affect the release of the hormone melatonin from the pineal gland.

The environmental effects of exposure to hormones from the female contraceptive pill have been investigated; so, too, have various occupational carcinogens, cosmetics and perfumes.

"A whole range of things have



Stephen Wilshere: 'Anyone can remove the lump; the clever thing is to stop the little bugger coming back again'

Martin Rickett

been looked at. We are not sure, for example, whether electromagnetic fields are a risk factor. There was a study which suggested that people who worked with generators and transformers might have a slight increase in risk. The perfume industry has been looked at, and at one time the wearing of braces was considered, but that has been discredited," says Prof Fentiman.

"I don't think there is any occupation where you can turn around and say 'this job is a serious risk factor for male breast cancer'. The trouble is that you are dealing with small numbers, so there will always be the risk of chance associations."

Research carried out by Dr Anne Hsing of the US National Cancer Institute and colleagues in Italy shows that although risk factors cannot be pinned down with any certainty to

specific jobs, they can be linked to social class and wealth.

The research, reported in the *Journal of Occupational and Environmental Health*, examines the cases of 201 men who died from breast cancer and finds clear differences in socioeconomic circumstances. Those with family incomes above £35,000 had a 50 per cent greater risk than those on lower incomes. Men with assets greater than £35,000 were twice as likely to get the disease as those with few or no assets; those who went to college were also as twice as much risk as those who left school early.

Similar observations have been made by Professor Fentiman in his own practice in London: "I have quite a lot of patients with male breast cancer who are high-flying executives," he says.

Just what that means is not clear, but one lifestyle variable between socioeconomic groups is diet.

"As well as reproductive factors, other factors that are related to high socioeconomic status, such as diet and other lifestyle habits, may be important, and deserve further investigation," says Dr Hsing.

For some men, like Stephen Wilshere, the matter is more clear-cut. He carries the gene for breast cancer that caused the death of his mother and one of his daughters.

"I have been tested to see whether I am carrying the gene for breast cancer, and I am. It means a one in two chance that any of my children will

also carry the gene. If they are male and they are carrying it, there is a 10 per cent chance of their developing cancer, but for females it is between 80 and 85 per cent."

Since his mastectomy, he has worked as a volunteer for Breast Cancer Care, helping other men to come to terms with their diagnosis. "When they get the results, it affects different people in different ways. Some doctors are wonderful at breaking the news, and others are terrible; they back into the furthest corner of the room and say something like, 'I don't think I've got good news for you,'" he says.

The message for men, he concludes, is to get symptoms checked early and to remember that taking out the tumour is not the end of the story: "Anyone can remove the lump; the clever thing is to stop the little bugger coming back again."

Breast Cancer Care's free helpline deals with concern about male breast cancer: 0800 245345

## There's a hole in my navel, my nipple, my nose

**JOHANNA SPIERS** is proud of her piercings. The 21-year-old writer has a ring though her right nostril, a blue jewel, known as a Madonna, above her lip, a half-inch spike just under her bottom lip and a barbell through her tongue.

"I like the way they look," she says. "I don't consider myself to be a particularly pretty or outstanding person, but with a few piercings I can look different and therefore I can make myself outstanding. I imagine I'll have them when I'm 61." It is doubtful whether Zara Phillips, Princess Anne's teenage daughter, who sports a metal stud in her tongue, will keep hers into old age, but both girls are merely conforming with their peers who are happily adorning their tongues, lips, eyebrows and navels. Many practitioners have noticed a rapid increase since last Christmas when "Scary Spice", Mel B, had her tongue pierced.

"When I first started piercing 14 years ago it was older people having nipple or genital piercings to add a bit of spice to their lives," says Philip Barry, a Bristol-based piercer, and chair of the European Professional Piercers Association.

"Now you get a lot of young people, even school children, who

want their navels or tongues pierced."

Is having your tongue, navel or nipple any more dangerous than having your ears pierced? Is there any truth in rumours that you can lose your taste buds, develop tongue paralysis, injure the muscles around the stomach and develop abscesses up your nostrils?

If carried out by trained piercers in hygienic studios, and followed up by meticulous after-care, piercing is remarkably safe. The main danger comes from untrained piercers

working in unhygienic premises, and from poor after-care.

Of the thousands of piercers in Britain, only 450 are registered with the European Professional Piercers Association, which monitors standards of training and hygiene, and a member belongs to the US Association of Professional Piercers. Most piercers are registered with their local councils, but hundreds - the cowboys of the trade - are not, and have little or no training.

Anyone, of any age, can be pierced. According to the

Department of Health, when it comes to body piercing, the courts have ruled that parental rights yield to a child's right to make his or her own decision. Most reputable studios refuse to pierce anyone under 16 without parental consent.

At Cold Steel in Camden, north London, which pierces hundreds of people a week, no one under 18 is pierced without parental consent. "We just don't do it," says Paul King, a master piercer. "People put no thought into their piercings. They just get pierced at their closest studio, rather than shopping around for the best and most reputable one."

Professor Norman Noah, an epidemiologist at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, and the Communicable Disease Surveillance Centre, who is Britain's "piercing tsar", has drawn up guidelines to which tattooists, acupuncturists and now piercers should adhere. He approves new ear-piercing guns and says that equipment is now so safe that danger from blood-borne viruses such as HIV, Hepatitis B and C is virtually non-existent.

Leeds City Council last year banned the use of the piercing gun on any part of the body other than the ears, when a number of people developed infections after having their belly button pierced with ear-piercing guns.

Inexperienced "cowboy" piercers may also thrust in jewellery too small for a fresh wound, with the result that the skin swells around it, causing infection. After piercing, the tongue swells up to three times its normal size and, if the barbell is too short, it can cause infection. When the swelling has gone down, the barbell can be changed to a shorter one.

Piercing is painless - you just feel a crack when you go



For people who can't keep a civil tongue in their head

Adrian Dennis

through the muscle, according to Kirsty Boyd, manager of the Leeds Piercing Company. "As soon as the anaesthetic wears off, in about an hour, then the pain will come through. The tongue will feel uncomfortable for three to four days and the main swelling will go down in a week or two. It's very difficult to eat and you have to be on liquidised food."

But once the wound is fully healed, the ball of the barbell can crack your teeth, as Dr Geoff Craig, an oral pathologist at the Sheffield Dental School explains. "There's a tremendous force applied when you bite. If you are eating and bite down on something, not realising your stud is there as well, you can break a tooth."

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Piercing is painless - you just feel a crack when you go

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# Getting under your skin without getting stuck in

The nightmare of vaccinations could soon be a thing of the past for needlephobes thanks to the jab-free injection.

By Lynn Eaton

If watching junkies shooting up in *Trainspotting* was your worst nightmare or you would rather go to Bognor than have jobs for Borneo, chances are you may have needle phobia – a fear most can understand but few own up to.

"It's all very well being five and terrified, but at 55 you feel a bit stupid," says Jon Fraise, a phobia expert. Needlephobes avoid medical treatment, dental fillings and even, in one case, essential treatment to prevent a cancer spreading. However, a new device could do away with conventional needles – and remove much of the fear for ever.

Called Inraject, it looks like a pen but contains a small gas cylinder where the cartridge would be. The tip is placed against the skin and, when the gas is released, it forces the liquid injection out under such high pressure that it turns solid, shooting into the skin in the same way a needle would.

"It sounds like great news," says Darren Taylor, who nearly passed out when he went to see *Trainspotting*. "It was a bad choice, that film," says the 26-year-old, who works in Lincolnshire. "I didn't faint, but that was only because I looked away. Anything like that on TV and I can't look. I am really squeamish."

A couple of years ago he went to have a wisdom tooth removed – and fainted at the sight of the needle. "It wasn't that it was particularly painful or anything. It was just the thought of it. I tried to tell myself not to worry, but as the time got closer, I got more and more worked up."

"I had an accident last year and cut my arm quite deeply and needed an injection. On two previous occasions I fainted, but this time I didn't. I was quite proud of myself. But I would rather be knocked on the head with a brick than have an injection. It's just fear of the needle."

Men seem to be more frightened of needles than women. "People who tend to faint are well over six foot and weigh 16 stone," says Sue Taylor, a senior nurse adviser with the Medical Advisory Service for Travellers Abroad (Masta). Picking them off the floor afterwards is no easy task, so many nurses will ask even the slightly queasy to lie on the couch just in case. Although Masta clinics give vaccinations all day, she says they rarely see people who are terrified of needles. "I think needlephobes just stay away."

Paula, 32, who is too embarrassed to give her full name, admits her fear of needles would prevent her going to any exotic holiday destination. "I can't even take my daughter for an injection. I've always been frightened. I've had a lot of bad experiences with blood tests, especially one when the doctor couldn't find a vein. People don't understand. They say it's nothing. But it's so traumatic. It's not the pain, it's the thought of it."

The Inraject device, designed by Weston Medical Limited, is about to



Inraject may mean that you – and Elizabeth Taylor – will never have to face a needle again.

be used in clinical trials with a new drug for hepatitis C being developed by Hoffmann-LaRoche. It is also being considered for use in a flu vaccine. Beyond that, its uses are potentially enormous, says the company's chief executive, Christopher Samler. "We are looking at any drugs that are currently being given by conventional needles and

mones or heparin (an anticoagulant used after surgery to thin the blood). We are not talking about intravenous drugs," says Mr Samler, which rules out the *Trainspotting* set. "But it could be used by people who have an allergy to bee stings or peanuts, who could keep the antidote in a bag to use themselves, if they ever needed it."

## Needlephobes dodge medical care and dental fillings. One sufferer even avoided essential treatment to stop a cancer spreading

syringes that have to be given to the subcutaneous tissue – and don't require variable doses."

Which means that people with diabetes who inject daily with variable amounts of insulin won't benefit. At the moment Inraject delivers a fixed dose, which would be put into the device by the drug company.

But it could help people with renal failure or cancer who are injecting erythropoietin (a hormone that stimulates red blood cell production) and those using growth hor-

mones or heparin (an anticoagulant used after surgery to thin the blood).

He then teaches phobias to relax and concentrate on their breathing. Only when they have learnt these skills will he gradually introduce the syringe, perhaps at first having it across the room, then gradually bringing it nearer.

"I will sometimes give a patient a syringe without a needle in it for

them to take home and handle. Eventually I may ask their GP or practice nurse to take a small blood sample. I also teach them to challenge negative thoughts, to focus on how brief their distress is going to be and how much they are likely to enjoy their holiday."

Although it doesn't always work, he reckons that most patients will be able to have essential injections afterwards. It may be more practical than waiting for the Inraject, which, after all, will offer only a limited alternative. The manufacturers have yet to come up with a device that will do away with needles for blood tests – the procedure that phobes fear most of all. But they are working on it.

*Living with Fear* (McGraw Hill), by Professor Isaac Marks, of the Institute of Psychiatry, tackles all phobias, including needles. *Triumph Over Phobia* offers self-help groups run by people who have overcome phobias – for details send an e-mail to *Triumph Over Phobia UK, PO Box 1831, Bath BA2 4YW; the Institute of Psychiatry runs a computerised course on tackling phobias – call 0171-919 3365*

I've been told that I have a chlamydia vaginal infection. Will it make me infertile?

It could make you infertile by causing blocked fallopian tubes and that is why it is absolutely essential that it is effectively treated as soon as possible. Chlamydia infection is caused by a microscopic organism which can be transmitted sexually. It takes two partners to pass chlamy-

Please send your questions to *A Question of Health*, The Independent, 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL. Fax 0171-293 2182; unfortunately, Dr Kavalier cannot respond to individual inquiries

## Thousands of sufferers have reason to be grateful that Marie Langley refused to heed doctor's orders. By Heather Welford

IT HAPPENED 10 years ago, but Marie Langley can still remember her consultant's words: "He looked at my notes and saw I'd already had spinal surgery and so on. Then he simply said: 'Well, there's nothing I can do for this at all. You'll just have to go away and learn to live with it. Off you go now.'"

The "it" Mrs Langley had to live with was constant, grinding pain, the legacy of a bad fall almost five years before. She had slipped on a highly polished floor at the primary school where she was a teacher. She was left facing permanent physical disfigurement and life in a wheelchair. "After three years I went back to work – but I couldn't manage. It wasn't anything to do with the wheelchair. It was the pain."

Looking at Mrs Langley now, wheelchair-bound but confident, lively and smiling, it is hard to believe that she was ever ground down by depression, anxiety and pain. But hearing the consultant

dismiss any shred of hope triggered an overwhelming depression that led to suicidal feelings.

"I know now that the emotional pain of despair makes physical pain even worse," she says. "Keeping up the facade, hiding the pain and depression from other people, is exhausting. I have found that tackling that emotional pain can be the first step to coping with the physical sort."

Now Mrs Langley, 65, runs Unwind, a non-profit-making international network of support for pain and stress, publishing tapes and books used by thousands of people, and their medical advisers. She is in daily contact with sufferers through her helpline, with other support groups and with physicians and surgeons all over the world.

Mrs Langley's work developed out of her own struggle to find a way out of her pain, knowing that the medical route was closed. With the constant support of her family, she read about some of the mainly American techniques of pain management. She learnt about relaxation techniques to cope with stress and anxiety and researched whole areas of complementary medicine and self-help systems.

The list of therapies she draws from is vast. She uses, among others, aromatherapy, reflexology, massage, visualisation and colour therapy. "The crucial one is relaxation. I use it all the time, literally. I don't have to think about it. It has become second nature."

She stresses that, while she no longer needs painkillers, she's not

against drugs. "Unwind works with doctors, hand in hand with drug therapy, when it's needed. But the crucial thing is that self-help can put the sufferer in control of the pain, and not the other way round."

She explains: "What works for one person may not work for another person. And when you're in any sort of pain, you can suffer setbacks; you can feel nothing anyone can say to you is any good. You've tried everything, and nothing helps. Giving someone a way out of hopelessness can be the first step."

Mrs Langley's background in teaching at primary school has helped her develop her materials. A four-part series of *Break Free* books, each focusing on one aspect (depression, anxiety, pain and negative thoughts), gives sufferers a

highly practical step-by-step strategy. "Sometimes, you need to tunnel your way through the pain, but you can only do it in tiny stages," says Mrs Langley. "Sometimes, people just aren't ready to do it. I can sometimes tell in their voice, if they are on the phone, that the time isn't right for them. But we keep in touch, and it may happen later."

Mrs Langley's aim is that doctors

will recommend other treatments to patients rather than sending them away without hope. "Things have really changed in the last 10 years, but people still end up thinking there's no way out. I'd like to see more doctors give patients a list of resources where they can get help for themselves. Why can't they say: 'I'm really sorry we can't take this any further, but here's something you can do for yourself.'

For *Unwind's* self-help programmes, send an e-mail to *3 Alderton Close, Gilesgate, Durham DH1 1DS*



Marie Langley in control at home

Will Walker/North News

## A QUESTION OF HEALTH

A NEW SERIES IN WHICH READERS' HEALTH QUESTIONS ARE ANSWERED BY DR FRED KAVALIER

### My son is too embarrassed to see a doctor

My 13-year-old son has developed firm lumps behind both of his nipples and is convinced that he is going to grow breasts. He is so overcome with embarrassment that he refuses to show our family doctor. Is there anything we can do to stop them growing?

I'm not surprised that your son is alarmed. He is at a time in his life when he is expecting some of his body parts to grow, but not his breasts. He is showing signs of male adolescent gynaecomastia, which is a fancy name for breast enlargement in teenage boys at the time of puberty.

It can be frightening and even a bit painful. But it is entirely normal and never gets beyond the stage of a small circular lump behind the nipple. Try to reassure him that it is a sign that his adult hormones are coming into play, and point him in the direction of *The Diary of a Teenage Health Freak*, by Aidan Macfarlane and Ann McPherson (Oxford University Press). He doesn't need to see a doctor if he doesn't want to.

I've developed an inguinal hernia and I have been told that the only way to get rid of it is with an operation. Isn't there any other way of curing it, like exercises to strengthen the abdominal muscles?

Hernias (with one special exception) never go away by themselves, and I have never heard of any effective treatment for them apart from surgery. An inguinal hernia is caused by a hole in the muscular wall that holds the intestines inside the abdomen.

The lump that appears is a loop of intestine wiggling its way out through the hole in the muscle. If you are unlucky, it may get stuck, or strangulated, and then it has to be repaired as an emergency. The old-fashioned way of repairing hernias was very similar to darning a sock.

Newer techniques use a piece of mesh, which seems to work just as well, and causes less pain and scarring. The exception to the rule about hernias repairing themselves is when a baby is born with a hernia at the site of the umbilical cord attachment. These can be embarrassingly large, but almost always cure themselves by the age of three or four.

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SPY in 150

The biggest-ever study of heart disease seemed to show cigarettes were not bad for you. Don't you believe it. By Annabel Ferriman

# Cats with rubber teeth prove smoking kills

**A**s someone who managed to give up smoking only by promising myself that I could take it up again when I reached 65, I was delighted to read last week that smoking may not be a risk factor for heart disease after all.

Doctors working on the world's largest study of heart disease – involving 150,000 people in 21 countries – told a cardiology conference in Vienna that the fall in heart disease among the populations studied did not exactly match the decline in the classic risk factors, namely smoking, raised blood pressure, high cholesterol and obesity. In some places where the risk factors declined steeply, the incidence of disease fell only slightly; in others, where the change in risky behaviour was small, the fall was sharp.

So does this mean that we can all ignore the health educators' exhortations to give up smoking and eat less fatty foods? Absolutely not, says Professor Hugh Tunstall-Pedoe, director of the cardiovascular epidemiology unit at Ninewells Hospital, Dundee, and one of the study's chief organisers.

"None of our results suggest that the campaigns against fatty food and smoking were wrong, just that there is more to the story than that. If we had shown a perfect correlation between the classic risk factors and heart disease, that would have made the subject of heart disease rather boring. Instead, our results leave room for the matter to be more complicated," he says.

The study, called the WHO Monica Project (from MONITORING Cardiovascular disease), which covers countries as diverse as China, Russia, Canada and Australia, showed that blood pressure and smoking were coming down in most of the populations studied, cholesterol levels were not changing much and people were getting fatter. But the reductions in blood pressure and smoking did not seem to match the fall in heart attacks.

"There were large differences in the rate of decline in populations with similar trends in risk factors," adds Prof Tunstall-Pedoe. "For example, the reduction in risk factors was similar in Glasgow and north Karelia in Finland, yet the fall in

deaths from heart disease was much higher in Karelia."

The professor says that scientists know from hundreds of other studies that the classic risk factors are important. He and his team in Dundee recently published, in the British Medical Journal, a study comparing the importance of the classic risk factors with 20 other factors that had been put forward in recent years.

"The classic ones came out on top," he says, "with the exception of one or two minor differences. A diet rich in potassium seemed to have a protective effect against cardiovascular disease and, for women, having a 'type A' – driven, ambitious

*People love the idea of a study that overturns the health rules of the last 20 years because they want permission to indulge their habits*

– personality, seemed to confer some benefit.

So what is distorting the Monica results? Why isn't the match better? There are four reasons, according to Prof Tunstall-Pedoe. "The first problem is one of measurement. In a study with 38 centres in 21 countries there is a huge problem in standardising measurements. Also, personnel change, so as soon as one team has learned what to do, its members move on.

All results were sent to a data centre in Helsinki, and procedures and results were scrutinised by quality control centres. Although serious failure led to exclusion from the study, if we had excluded every centre with any problems at all, we would have ended up with too few centres.

"Secondly, because most trends in smoking, blood pressure and heart disease – were going down, we did not have as great a heterogeneity of trends as we would have

liked. The changes we were measuring were not that large compared with the possible errors in measurement. For research purposes – though not for other reasons – we would have liked a better spread of trends, with some going up."

The third problem was of time lag. If people reduce their risk of heart disease by changing their lifestyle, there is a time lag before the effects are seen.

This seems to vary according to different populations and their characteristics (some populations have naturally low levels of cholesterol, for example), which makes comparisons difficult. The reduction in risk factors among the Scottish population is now paying off in reduced rates of disease, but it has taken longer in that country than in some others.

Finally, Prof Tunstall-Pedoe admits that there may be other determinants of heart disease, apart from the classic risk factors. Some of these, such as diet, were known about when the study was set up 20 years ago, but were too difficult to measure. Others have emerged more recently.

"The importance of eating a diet rich in fruit and vegetables is very strong from the epidemiological standpoint," he says. Such a diet, full of anti-oxidant vitamins, seems to be useful in preventing disease, but no one knows exactly what dose of which vitamin is playing the crucial part.

Another possible cause of heart disease is the presence of low-level chronic infection, according to Professor Brian Pentecost, the medical director of the British Heart Foundation, who welcomed the study. But this factor has emerged in recent years, and was not suspected when the Monica study was set up.

"There have been a number of pilot studies of antibiotic treatment being given to people who have had heart attacks and who have evidence of infection, which have shown some benefit in preventing further attacks," says Prof Pentecost. Various infections have been implicated, including chronic periodontal disease and chlamydia, but it is not known which are important.

If chronic low-grade infection were found to be a culprit in heart disease, it would help to explain why



The fall in smoking did not match the reduction in heart disease, but that is no reason to think cigarettes are safe

new treatments tended to be those in which heart attack survival and mortality were improving most".

Another factor may have also been in play. "Those countries that adopted the most modern treatments were also the wealthiest, so it may have been the wealth and material quality of life that played as great a part in reducing death as the treatments themselves," says Prof Pentecost.

Or as Professor Tunstall-Pedoe puts it: "If you get eaten by a croc-

odile when you are expecting lions and tigers, it does not mean that big cats have rubber teeth."

People love the idea of a study that overturns all the health rules of the last 20 years, partly because they want permission to indulge their habits but also because they like the idea that all those clever doctors got it wrong. But they cannot seize on this one as an answer to their prayers.

## Beating the booze with a dry sense of humour

NICK CHARLES can still remember a time he was so drunk that he jumped from the window of a rural police station into a vat of sour milk from a neighbouring dairy farm. Recovered alcoholics invariably have great stories, but as Charles reminds patients at his West London clinic: "Any story about drunkenness is only funny if you're not going to do it again."

He has been sober for the last 21 years, and has devoted the last nine to helping other alcoholics at the Chaucer Clinic in the grounds of Ealing Hospital. Since founding the clinic nine years ago he's helped some 8,000 alcoholics "unlearn" their habits, claiming an 87 per

cent success rate. Last September, he received the MBE for his services to alcoholics.

Charles, a straight-talking Midlander, is modest about his achievements, personal and otherwise. He stresses that he is not in recovery, but rather "just a guy who doesn't drink any more. I couldn't even tell you if my wife has a bottle of wine in the fridge." No mean achievement for someone who spent years sleeping rough, knocking back meths and hair lacquer. After being hospitalised 23 times, he finally quit drinking when he discovered that his mother had been killed by a passing car. The funeral had already taken place and Charles will never know

*He is 'one of the unfortunate few for whom drink opens the door to an inner world where real life does not exist'*

whether her death was suicide, or was caused by a moment of absent-mindedness. Either way, his father said she was "distressed" by her son's alcoholism.

Ironically, it was his father who offered the teenage Charles his first drink. "Suddenly, I was better-looking, more confident, a better driver; everything I wanted to be." If only. He is, he admits, one of "the unfortunate few for whom drink opens the

door to an inner world where real life does not exist". Social drinkers cannot appreciate what that means. Charles says: "Doctors, social workers and journalists may try to be sympathetic. But they can never grasp the extent of conceit, delusion and dishonesty in the mind of the alcoholic."

Charles married for the first time at the age of 21 and divorced six years later; "by which time I was un-

employable". His second marriage, which he recalls only dimly "through the bottom of a glass", lasted nine months. He now lives in Surrey with Kelly, his third wife and soulmate for the past 21 years. His grandfather, a senior policeman, died of drink, and Kelly's mother was an alcoholic. Convinced that 90 percent of alcoholics have a genetic intolerance to alcohol, the couple decided long ago not to have children.

Instead, Charles has his patients and his staff, usually former alcoholics. The Chaucer treats 36 patients at a time, whose weekly fees of £268 are paid for by the DSS, the local authority and from each resident's income support allowance. Along with the celebrity names, residents have included footballers, army officers and a headmistress. Alcoholics Anonymous, "the only alternative to my clinic", didn't work

which can include profuse sweating, anxiety attacks and fits.

After detoxification, patients are given work therapy. They may repair furniture, paint walls, cook, clean, or work in the office. "Alcohol has been their dearest friend for years and when you take it away from them you leave an enormous void, so a day lasts for ever," says Charles. "Some of them have not worked for years." During their free time, clients are encouraged to pursue childhood hobbies, take up new ones, or share their expertise with others.

The third phase of treatment involves group discussions and individual therapy, designed to help patients confront the trauma that

*One man was at the clinic for seven months before he could admit he had accidentally killed his own child*



Group therapy at the Chaucer Clinic helps patients to confront the trauma that triggered their alcoholism

Andrew Burman

triggered their alcoholism. The stories can be harrowing, although Charles says there is the odd miracle amid the tragedy. One man was there for seven months before he could admit he had accidentally run over and killed his own child. He turned to drink for consolation, and was thrown out by his wife. Yet therapy finally helped the young father to achieve sobriety, and he returned home to resolve his marriage.

For referrals to the Chaucer Clinic contact Nikki de Vilkens (0181-571 5616).

Nick Charles's autobiography, *Through A Glass Brightly*, is published by Robson books, price £16.95.

# MEDIA

Premier League clubs may want to be players in the media market – will that be good or bad for the fans? By Paul McCann

## Premier teams prepare to kick into digital TV

**I**t has often been said that once a millionaire has more money than he can ever spend he gets himself three things: a new wife, a newspaper and a football team. This adage, without the hit about a new wife, looks like becoming a business strategy rather than just a stereotype of the millionaire's ego.

News Corporation and Tottenham Hotspur have convincingly killed last week's story that they are in talks that would see Rupert Murdoch become the first media baron to own an English football team since Robert Maxwell's involvement with Oxford United in the Eighties.

But developments at Manchester United this month show that television and football will increasingly become the same business. And it shows that it may be football that moves into media, rather than the other way around.

Despite Murdoch's purchase of the Los Angeles Dodgers for £200m, in March this year his move into the Premier League is not inevitable.

"In the UK there is no local television market," says Matthew Horsman, who is a media analyst at the brokers Henderson Crosthwaite. "Owning the Dodgers allows you to exploit their local television deals. Here, you are dealing with a monopolistic organisation – the Football League."

Horsman believes that one of the barriers for Sky entering the football business itself is that it would irritate the rest of the teams in the league. They would not want to deal with Sky both as a buyer of foot-

ball rights, and as one of the joint owners of those rights.

What would cause this to change is the outcome of a Restrictive Practices Court case in January, brought by the Office of Fair Trading against the Premier League.

The OFT wants the court to decide whether the Premiership teams' grouping of themselves together to sell their television rights in one deal amounts to a monopoly.

The deal is under scrutiny by the Office of Fair Trading against the Premier League.

"If the OFT wins the case, the television rights to games will revert back to clubs and will present us with a very interesting scenario," says Maurice Watkins, Manchester United's solicitor.

"As things stand, the case is being defended by the Premier League and the clubs who make it up." But Manchester United has put itself in a position to benefit whichever way the case plays out.

But, as *The Guardian* sports-writer Jim White pointed out when debating with Ridley at the Edinburgh Television Festival, on 16 September MUTV will be showing Red Hot Update and Vintage Reds, while the football team will be playing in the Champions' League.

"The key to the whole thing is to show the football," said White, who also writes for a United fanzine. "It is about obtaining the rights to live matches."

Which is why Manchester United wins, even if it and the Premier League "lose" in the Restrictive Practices Court. If the deal with Sky and the BBC is torn up, it will free teams with their own channels to cut

ing access to those who are unable to see Manchester United play. "The fan base for Manchester United is 4 million. But only 56,000 can get in to a game at Old Trafford."

Brian Barwick, head of sport at ITV, is watching developments with interest: "There is an inevitability about team channels and, because there is no bigger team in town than Manchester United, everyone will be watching the level of interest."

Only Manchester United, and perhaps Rangers in Scotland, have a big enough fan base to have a dedicated television channel to themselves. If the business takes off, there are likely to be joint channels offering split programming. Paul Ridley believes that the channels are needed because of the way football has changed: "Football is no longer just about kicking a ball. Football is show business and celebrity. It is David Beckham and Posh Spice."

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Man United's dedicated digital channel is a whole new ball-game for Alex Ferguson's team and the fans

David Ashdown

out the middleman and charge viewers for games themselves.

Tempting as this may seem to the big clubs, there remains a number of questions about how they would actually charge viewers, and the effect that this would have.

Subscription works at the moment, but only on the basis of fans being able to see an entire league,

not just their team. As was pointed out in the Edinburgh debate, many of those tuning in to see Manchester United play are hoping to see them get beaten.

Pay-per-view has been proved to work, for some one-off boxing matches, but no one knows whether it is sustainable for an entire football league. The teams have to work out

if they want to create electronic season ticket holders, or just use pay-per-view for special games.

When Sky proposed pay-per-view to the Premier League chairman earlier this year, it was proposing to charge extra for games it does not currently show.

The creation of a European super-league would also provide a

new television product that could be charged for on a pay-per-view basis.

What all these developments have in common is the move of football companies away from being sports' companies to being media owners. And once they are all media owners, there is far more chance that Rupert Murdoch will be joining them as a football club owner.

## A fair warning: journos, check your facts

Three US journalists are sacked for lying. We should take note. By Andrew Marshall in Washington

THE STORY of Mike Barnicle, the columnist at the *Boston Globe* whose columns failed the fact test, seemed to be over once he had resigned. It wasn't.

James Hirsch, who covered the story for *The Wall Street Journal*, wrote that the New York Times Company, which owns the *Globe*, had "declined to comment." As it turned out, he had not called the NYTs' spokesperson Nancy Nielsen, and she had issued a two-sentence statement. It wasn't much, but it was something; and that was that for Mr Hirsch. He was dismissed.

The last year has seen an epidemic of resignations, sackings and disciplining in the American media. Steven Glass turned out fallacious articles for *The New Republic* and others; CNN's ill-fated Tailwind story, claiming that the US had used nerve gas during the Vietnam War and against American deserters, was swiftly rubbished; as well as Mr Barnicle. Patricia Smith, also of the *Boston Globe*, resigned after inventing people and quotes.

Leaving the electronic media to one side, the cases of Mr Hirsch, Mr Barnicle and Mr Glass are all quite different. In particular, most journalists will feel a frisson over the Hirsch case. What he wrote was certainly untrue, but, in the context of the lives most reporters lead, the lie was understandable. Mr Hirsch himself told *The New York Times* that he had been on a tight deadline, and had thought (based on earlier conversations with Ms Nielsen) that she would have no comment. Most journalists would count her statement as a sensible form of "no comment."

Steven Glass, on the other hand, would not have lasted 10 minutes at the *Journal*. He made up stories from start to finish, even going to the length of fabricating a website and a voice-mail box for a company that he had invented.

Mike Barnicle falls somewhere in the middle, in a way that illustrates something important about all three cases.

He was a long-time city columnist for the *Globe* who had risen through the ranks. He was writing in a tradition popularised by writers such as Jimmy Breslin and Mike Royko, of straightforward, hard-hitting messages presented through narratives of local folk and their ways. The column for which Mr Barnicle was pulled up concerned two children in a cancer ward, one white, one black. It was a heartwarming story of hands stretched across a racial and class divide, but it proved impossible to substantiate.

The culture within which writers such as Mr Barnicle grew up was more accommodating to the foibles of these journalists than, say, in court reporters. Newspapers have subcultures that set the standards as much as contracts or written rules. But, over time, these cultures change. Mr Barnicle may not have been sufficiently aware of the shift.

Mr Glass was clearly operating outside any relationship with the truth. He had moved rapidly to the *New Republic*, a magazine with a high reputation to defend. He did not understand that, and continued to act in the way he had on much smaller publications, where a collision with the outside world was less likely. Mr Hirsch had the misfortune to make a slip-up on the wrong story – one that concerned reporters making things up, and about a rival newspaper group, where the standards of expected behaviour were far more rigorous.

Both Mr Hirsch and Mr Glass knew that what they were doing was wrong, but the former did not think it was significant, and the latter thought he wouldn't get caught. Mr Barnicle's case seems to be different. He believed what he was doing was right, because it had been in the past.

The media is in the throes of great change, upsetting old assumptions about what is and isn't right. In particular print is increasingly a hard-nosed business driven by managers, not journalists, and some cosy old subcultures are disintegrating under that pressure. Equally, the media is big news in America, and under greater scrutiny than ever before. All three journalists were shopped by other media: Mr Hirsch by the New York Times Company, Mr Barnicle by a former employee of the *Reader's Digest*, and Mr Glass by another magazine.

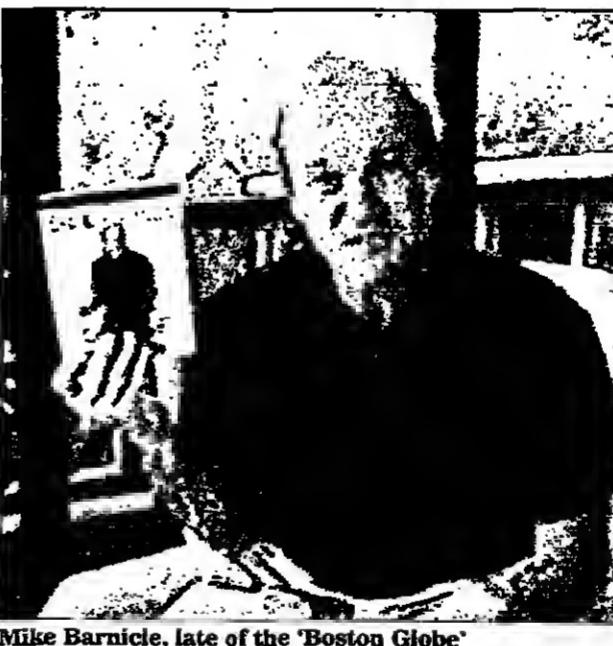
Journalists are also a popular target. The press and television are not held in high regard by Americans, and the Monica Lewinsky affair has not helped. Many criticisms of the early reporting of the affair – that it was unsourced and not based in reliable fact – have lessened now that it is clear that the stories had substance. But while the media may feel vindicated, most people think the story has been over-reported, and want to know less about it.

The hunting-season has probably only just begun. Scott Shugerman, who writes a regular column on the press for the Internet service "Slate," says that there are two more journalists on other papers who are "plagiarists and fiction writers", and that he may publicly expose them. Plenty of people would be happy to see more journalists out on their ear. That sound that you hear in the newsrooms may just be the noise of axes grinding: it's time to start making that extra call, and checking your notebooks.

I'm a bit of a HOOT in the office.  
At home I want somebody  
to entertain me.  
I want to watch  
**SEINFELD**  
every night.  
Not just  
once a week.  
  
CAN'T WAIT. WON'T WAIT.  
FRIDAY NIGHT COMEDY EVERY NIGHT

7PM Roseanne	9PM Ellen	11PM Britcom
7.30 Cosby	9.30 Seinfeld	11.30 Larry Sanders
8PM Grace Under Fire	10PM Frasier	12PM Letterman
8.30 Spin City	10.30 Cheers	1AM Saturday Night Live

**COMEDY CHANNEL**



Mike Barnicle, late of the *Boston Globe*

# Diana: the story of the story

**On Saturday 30 August 1997, as midnight passed, a few journalists prepared to while away the time until their shifts ended. Five hours later, the story of the decade had broken. Gabriel Thompson tells the story of the night Diana died**

**12.30-1.10am: 'Have you heard the news?'**

It had been a good night out and after a little too much wine I decided that a cup of coffee before bed was a good idea. Waiting for the kettle to boil I turned on the television as the first reports of the crash were coming in. From my time working on the *Independent on Sunday* I knew that its news operation closed at 12.30. It was going to miss the story completely I panicked, and reached for the telephone.

Elsewhere in London, Richard Sambrook was being teased about the fact that he always carried a pager. Sambrook, the BBC's head of newsgathering, pointed out: "I need it in case the Queen Mother dies, or something." A few minutes later, the pager went off.

At *The Sunday Times*, the night editor Ian Coxon was drinking coffee as an uneventful day drew to a close. A colleague rushed into the room with news of the crash. Coxon didn't get to finish his coffee.

After 15 minutes of fuming at colleagues' answering machines and swearing at endless ringing tones, I got through to Colin Hughes, then deputy editor of *The Independent*, who was at home in bed. As I told him what had happened, Hughes said immediately: "She's dead."

Another journalist caught the late-night news and rushed off to his office. He completely forgot to tell his wife what he was doing.

**1.10-2.30am 'Stop the presses'**

Hughes made up his mind. There was no one at the *Independent on Sunday*, but he was a reporter and I was a sub. We could be at the office in 30 minutes, and get a front page out to the printers by 2.30am – our last chance of the night. He rang the printers and told them to stop the presses. He ran for his car, and I jumped into a cab.

At *The Sunday Times*, Coxon was blessing his luck. Not only did he have enough staff but, by coincidence, the paper's royal correspondent was doing a stint on the night news desk.

Nik Gowing, one of BBC World Television's most experienced new presenters, had been asleep for just 40 minutes when the telephone rang. By 1.30am he was in a cab heading for the office. By 2.30am he was broadcasting live – and would continue to do so until 7.30am.

At one radio station, a beleaguered reporter was so afraid to leave his desk that he resorted to relieving himself into a Coke bottle.

**2.30-3.30am 'Does anyone know anything?'**

After the first rush to get the news out, everyone began the hunt for hard facts.

At *The Independent on Sunday* we had been given a reprieve by the printers, and a deadline – 3.30am. Most other papers had also managed to get a story about the crash out to their printers, and were preparing the next edition.

At the BBC, they had decided to broadcast their 24-hour World channel on both BBC1 and BBC2 throughout the night.

Everyone was wondering what had happened to Diana. Buckingham Palace had delayed making a statement; there was no real information coming from the Government; the French authorities were being obtuse.

I was talking to a French radio station trading "live interview with British journalist" for any news they had. They knew no more than we did. Gowing was growing more and more suspicious as he tried to separate fact from speculation. Coxon feared that the very paucity of information indicated that there was grim news to come.

We knew Dodi was dead. But Diana? She was concussed, she had a broken arm, she was severely injured – which story to believe?

In the midst of all this, Gowing's desktop printer broke down. Looking for some technical support, he spotted a chap with a beard and wearing jeans, wandering through the newsroom. Gowing demanded his aid in fixing the printer. The bearded man looked surprised but did oblige. And that is how Gowing first met Richard Ayre, deputy chief executive of BBC News.

**3.30-4.30am 'The Manila connection'**

Our luck changed. Because the crash was in France, it was a matter for the Foreign Office. Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, was in Manila. The time difference meant that Cook and his staff were already out of bed and therefore fair game for the British reporters who had accompanied them on the trip.

The official version is that Diana's death was confirmed just

before Sam London time. The truth is that, long before then, the reporters with Cook had rung in with unofficial confirmation of the death.

All night we had survived on official statements and guesswork. Finally, we had hard news about Diana.

For *The Independent on Sunday*, Steve Crawshaw rang from Manila. Hughes, who likes to behave in a calm and collected manner in such situations, shouted "Yes, yes, yes!"

We finally had some news from someone we knew and could trust.

Sadly, the news was that Diana was dead.

**4.30-5.30am 'Diana killed in crash'**

Hard news was finally arriving. We learnt that there would be an announcement simultaneously in Paris and Manila; shortly before 5am. At *The Independent on Sunday* we had already acted on Crawshaw's information and remade the front page with the story of Diana's death. The page was sent

to the print sites with strict instructions that they were not to start printing without our say-so.

The confirmation came just before 5am. We were printing it three minutes later.

At the BBC, Gowing read the confirmation – a "snap" from the Press Association – twice on air. Twenty minutes later, Buckingham Palace issued its own confirmation.

Gowing had his first and only attack of nerves, and calmly announced the news. No one knows for sure how many people around the world saw that broadcast, but the best estimate is 500 million.

**5.30-7.30am 'Time to go home'**

The end of the story had been told. No newspaper could keep printing any longer. Television and radio had reported the news and were now looking for more angles, and more opinions, to flesh out the coverage.

At *The Sunday Times*, Coxon was already thinking about how the

paper would deal with the story in the following week's edition.

At *The Independent on Sunday*, Hughes was calling in staff from the daily *Independent* to prepare the next day's paper.

Gowing handed over to another presenter and slipped quietly away. Sambrook was organising the movement of reports, cameramen, engineers and equipment to Paris.

I couldn't get a taxi home – they were all booked to rush journalists to their newsrooms around London.

It was a new day. Sambrook was delighted to discover that a royal correspondent had cut short her holiday in Devon and was on her way to London. By taxi.

A freelance cameraman was sent to Buckingham Palace. He found plenty of people – almost all clubbers who had been dancing the night away as the news broke.

As for the journalist who rushed off to his office without telling his wife what he was doing – she caught him coming home at 7.30am, and still thinks he's having an affair.

## THE WORD ON THE STREET

AN EDINBURGH Television Festival Session on honesty in documentaries started to cut up rough for *The Guardian* when some of the audience started to attack its media editor, who was chairing the session. They were unhappy about his paper's exposure of Carlton's allegedly fake documentary *The Connection*. The backlash will not end there. It is rumoured that Clark Productions, which made the *Hard News* series, is investigating *The Guardian* story. A documentary more sympathetic to the paper is being made by another production company and there are tales of antagonism between the two investigative teams. Proof, if it were needed, that the media is ready to disappear up its own behind at the drop of a hat.

COMPETITION TO be the most famous person at the festival was unusually stiff this year, with one Edward Windsor appearing close to Ms Louise Woodward on the delegate list. Mr Windsor, of Ardent Productions, had to collect his delegate tickets just like everyone else and dutifully hand them in. However, his bodyguard just gave the ticket collectors a hard stare before going wherever he wanted, and Ardent's travel people did not have to baffle to get a last-minute hotel booking. He apparently stayed at Holyrood Palace. Less happy with his accommodation was the media correspondent of *The Express*. Rather than stay in a hotel he was given the *Express* flat, which had been used by arts writers; it looked like one of the junies flats in *Trainspotting*. There were no sheets, no towels, no toilet paper and no hot water. Beer cans were piled high. Once, under Beeverbroot, it was a point of honour for *Express* correspondents to travel in greater style than rivals, staying at the best hotels in every city in the world. What a difference 3 million copies a day makes.

ELISABETH MURDOCH's address to the festival was so emphatically delivered that most discussion afterwards was about who her drama coach is. But she wasn't the only one with an image consultant working hard for her. Louise Woodward arrived at a sponsor's party holding hands with the young daughter of her lawyer, Barry Scheck. It made a most touching image.



## PRINCESS DIANA HAS DIED

Confirmed by Buckingham Palace

BBC announcer Nik Gowing reads the official confirmation of the death of Diana, Princess of Wales, at 5.17am

The world of work has changed. Hunter Davies looks back on 40 years of being a happy hack

## Working to find the write stuff

I STARTED work 40 years ago today. I still have the letter framed on my wall, from Robert Walker, news editor of the *Manchester Evening Chronicle*, confirming my appointment as a reporter. The salary in September 1958 was £14 a week.

I was 22 and had just left Durham University where I had written for *Postgraduate*, the student paper, and I thought, "how do I get a real job doing this?" The university appointments people were no help, though someone in my college said that a bloke called Harry Evans, who had been at the college eight years earlier, was oozing journalism.

I found out there were two so-called training schemes for graduates – Westminster Press and Kemsley Newspapers. I chose Kemsley – which then became Thomson – because their papers were in big cities. The Withy Grove, Manchester office of Kemsley was the biggest newspaper office in Europe. Apart from the *Chron*, which boasted 1 million readers every night, they produced the northern editions of *nationals*, such as *The Sunday Times*, *Empire News*, *Sunday Graphic* and *Sunday Chronicle*, plus the *Daily Mirror*, *News of the World* and *The Daily Telegraph*.

The training scheme was a joke. No courses, no exams. I did go to shorthand lessons, found myself with a class of 14-year-old girls, and gave up. They were too quick for me.

The advantage, for a graduate, was that if you survived a year they might move you around in the group. For the first few weeks I was sent out with a senior reporter, Barry Cockcroft. We would go to the scene of a crime or accident. Barry would get a few quotes from the police, the fire chief,

a couple of witnesses – then he'd rush to a telephone box and dictate a story that made sense straight off.

When my time came, I stood behind the phone box for about two hours, scribbling away, and then I got an awful bollocking from the deputy news editor: who hated me and hated all graduates, because I had missed three editions. In those days, the *Chron* and our deadly rival the *News*, had about six different editions a day.

I slowly realised this was all a trick. Barry had about five

Most hacks sit silently in front of their screen, not talking, not communing, seeing little of real life

for mate for such news stories, which fitted almost anything.

After nine months, I was moved to London on the *Sunday Graphic*. It was Fleet Street. Nine months later, in January 1960, I joined *The Sunday Times*.

I was the boy reporter on the *Atticus* column, under Robert Robinson, and then Nicholas Tomlin. I thought: "I'm stuck here; I'll never move up; you have to be Oxbridge or public school." And it was pretty boring, having to write about who would be the next Bishop of London or Master of Balliol. Then, in the mid-Sixties it all changed. I was able to write about the people I wanted to: gritty northern writers, scruffy Cockney photographers. Liver-



The young journalist Hunter Davies in the Sixties

They are all following each other's tales. Today, I work every morning on my books until around one o'clock, I get a call from some breathless executive, straight out of morning conference, who will say, "Quick, Hunt, can you do us 500 words on trainers?" "What's the angle," I say. "Oh, there's a par saying that Nike's shares have fallen." I was asked by three different papers to do that. They all saw the same little story and thought of the same follow-up.

Papers don't have the staff feature writers they once had, and the differences between tabloid and broadsheet have almost disappeared. Executives move around between them, and they take their contacts with them.

These days, there are no lunches, for most hacks. They sit silent in front of their screen all day. In their vast open plan offices, not talking, not communing, working late, seeing very little of real life, which is why they have to get their inspiration from the rest of the media.

## March of the old men marks Sky's new dawn

### ANALYSIS

PAUL McCANN

FROM ONE angle the defection last week of Jimmy Hill from the BBC to Sky's Sports News channel looks a little like the creation of a television retirement home in the sky.

Hill, the veteran sports pundit and broadcaster, has joined forces with that other television institution, Barry Norman, who moved from the BBC to Sky in June.

The fact that both men are in the autumn of their careers

Hill is 70 and Norman 64 – looks to some as though they have decided to make some serious money before they think about retiring permanently to the celebrity golf circuit.

Others are inclined to view these two defections as the beginning of a much-heralded move of terrestrial institutions to Sky. The argument goes that, just as sport has moved largely to television, so eventually the top-rating shows and stars from terrestrial channels will follow the money.

Indeed, it is an old saw of media reporting that every year, when Granada's contract to supply *Coronation Street* to ITV comes up for renewal, a story appears in the press claiming that the soap is about to move to Sky.

Elizabeth Murdoch, Sky's general manager, has declared her intention to turn Sky 1 into a general entertainment channel to compete with ITV and Channel 5.

In order to do this Murdoch will need her own home-made programmes, because UK audiences are heroically resistant to imported programmes, and because we have a smaller proportion of foreign programmes in peak time than any other equivalent market. I did get paid...

If Ms Murdoch is hunting for home-grown talent, the obvious place to look is terrestrial television. This has prompted fears of spiralling talent inflation, just like the sports rights inflation that was created when Sky got out its sports chequebook.

However, it should be argued that the two swallows, Hill and Norman, do not a Sky summer make.

The satellite broadcaster's profits are down this year because of its funding of new digital channels and its subsidy for set-top decoders.

It looks as though Norman and Hill want some serious money before they retire permanently to celebrity golf

Indeed, it is an old saw of media reporting that every year, when Granada's contract to supply *Coronation Street* to ITV comes up for renewal, a story appears in the press claiming that the soap is about to move to Sky.

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In order to do this Murdoch will need her own home-made programmes, because UK audiences are heroically resistant to imported programmes, and because we have a smaller proportion of foreign programmes in peak time than any other equivalent market.

Sky, frankly, does not have the cash to go on a spending spree for something of such unquantifiable value as talent.

And even without its digital commitments, once Sky's spending on sports rights – and that's mainly Premier League football – is taken out of its programme budget, its star-buying powers are dwarfed by BBC1 and ITV.

Instead, Sky's programming has followed the pattern of Fox, its sister network in America. Fox has succeeded by buying American football rights and then innovating in the other parts of its schedules. Sitcoms such as *The Simpsons* and *Married with Children* upset American moralists when the station

first aired, because of their irreverent take on family life. However, what was funny to a highly valuable younger television audience.

In its home-grown programming Sky insists that it is interested in creating new genres rather than in stealing them. With programmes such as *Ibiza Uncovered* it is fair to say that Sky has been innovative, even if the programmes are of dubious worth.

And in the case of both Hill and Norman there are very specific reasons why the satellite broadcaster has been able to lure them on board. Norman is the bigger purchase, reportedly costing the channel £500,000 a year, because it is intended that he should give a face to Sky's plethora of film offerings on its new digital platforms.

Hill looks like a more opportunistic buy, but he fits the same strategy of getting established faces to help brand-new services.

Hill was available for the simple reason that everything he did for the BBC had been bought up by Sky or ITV. "This was not a decision of mine," he said last week. "The BBC doesn't have any of the programmes I've done for them in the past because the BBC has lost all the contracts for the FA Cup and so on."

"They will miss me around World Cup time, but, apart from that, it won't make much difference to them, me going."

Hill will also be part of

Sky's digital services, and undoubtedly there will be further smash-and-grab raids on terrestrial institutions as the broadcaster seeks to fill its hundreds of channels. However, wholesale lifting is not in Sky's plans.

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*April Story* is a wistful drama about love and friendship centred around a teenager beginning university. *Fried Dragon Fish* is a tongue-in-cheek cop thriller. Both demonstrate a lack of imagination and a tendency to fall back on the mannerisms of their respective genres. West End: ICA Cinema

### THE HORSE WHISPERER (PG)

Director: Robert Redford  
Starring: Robert Redford, Kristin Scott Thomas  
Robert Redford has never directed himself before, and we should be grateful - the love-affair on screen between Robert Redford and Robert Redford is one of the most intensely unsettling ever seen. He plays Tom Booker, a Montana farmer who specialises in equine psychology. A New York magazine editor (Kristin Scott Thomas) whose daughter has been traumatised in a riding accident brings her daughter and the girl's horse to Booker, hoping for them to be cured. The picture is efficiently acted, but it's despicably shallow. West End: ABC Tottenham Court Road, Barbican Screen, Chelsea Cinema, Clapham Picture House, Hammersmith Virgin, Notting Hill Coronet, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Leicester Square, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Screen on Baker Street, Screen on the Hill, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road.

### LOCK, STOCK AND TWO SMOKING BARRELS (18)

Director: Guy Ritchie  
Starring: Dexter Fletcher, Vinne Jones  
*While Lock, Stock and Two Smoking Barrels* mixes deadpan humour with cold brutality à la Tarantino, the film's defining characteristic is its residual morality.

Ritchie's direction is showy to the point of distraction, but, beneath the cruel violence and coarse humour, this is a nostalgic piece, as

hinted at by the closing nod to *The Italian Job*. West End: ABC Tottenham Court Road, Elephant & Castle Coronet, Hammersmith Virgin, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Plaza, Ritzy Cinema, Screen on Baker St, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End.

### MR NICE GUY (15)

Director: Samo Hung  
Starring: Jackie Chan, Richard Norton, Miki Lee  
This largely disappointing addition to Jackie Chan's oeuvre does have its moments. But the combination of comedy and adventure doesn't gel. West End: Virgin Trocadero

### THE PROPOSITION (15)

Director: Lesli Linka Glatter  
Starring: Kenneth Branagh, Madeleine Stowe  
Historical drama unavailable for preview at time of going to press. West End: ABC Panton Street

### THE REAL HOWARD SPITZ (PG)

Director: Vadim Jean  
Starring: Kelsey Grammer, Amanda Donohoe  
From the director of *Leon the Pig Farmer* comes this sunny little comedy starring Kelsey "Frasier" Grammer as a grouch kids' writer who hates children. Makes up in verve and wit what it lacks in originality. West End: UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Trocadero

### THE SPANISH PRISONER (PG)

Director: David Mamet  
Starring: Campbell Scott, Steve Martin  
David Mamet's intricate little thriller is a playful exercise in twisting a plot until it locks. There is a scientific detachment about why the example every permutation of his Kafkaesque scenario, though the movie is also silly funny.

West End: Gate Notting Hill, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Phoenix Cinema, Ritzy Cinema, Screen on the Green, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Haymarket, Warner Village West End.

Ryan Gilbey

## GENERAL RELEASE

### THE ADVENTURES OF ROBIN HOOD (U)

A perfect antidote to the bombast of *Armageddon* can be found in Michael Curtiz's merry and inventive romp, one of the greatest swashbucklers ever made. West End: Clapham Picture House

### ARMAGEDDON (12)

This deeply stupid film purports to be a tender love story, a meaty action adventure and a global disaster movie in which a meteor is on a collision course with Earth. Every moment is carefully engineered to include something for all the family, yet its jumble of styles will end up pleasing no one. West End: ABC Tottenham Court Road, Hammersmith Virgin, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Plaza, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End.

### THE AVENGERS (12)

Ralph Fiennes dons the bowler hat and wields the cane as Steed, Uma Thurman pours herself into a cat suit as Emma Peel, while Sean Connery sashays around in a kit as August De Wynter. In most ways a disappointment - to both lovers of the original, and to fans of the main performers. West End: Odeon Kensington, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End

### BARNEY'S GREAT ADVENTURE (U)

Feature-length exploits for the big, jolly dinosaur whose blend of nursery rhymes, day-glo colours and moral lessons makes him ideal for the more undemanding pre-school viewer - but an endurance test for anyone else. West End: UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Trocadero

LOCK, STOCK AND TWO SMOKING BARRELS (18)

Ralph Fiennes dons the bowler hat and wields the cane as Steed, Uma Thurman pours herself into a cat suit as Emma Peel, while Sean Connery sashays around in a kit as August De Wynter. In most ways a disappointment - to both lovers of the original, and to fans of the main performers. West End: Odeon Kensington, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End

### THE CASTLE (15)

When his home is threatened with demolition to make way for an airport, truck driver Darryl Kerrigan (Michael Caine), together with his family and friends, decides to fight back and stand up for his rights. West End: Empire Leicester Square, Odeon Swiss Cottage

### THE DAYTRIPPERS (15)

Worried that her husband (Stanley Tucci) may be having an affair, Eliza (Hope Davis) confides in her parents, only to find that the whole family insist on accompanying her to Manhattan for the day to confront him. Writer-director Greg Motolla charts the tensions of the family car journey with unerring wit. West End: Odeon Camden Town, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Haymarket

### THE MAGIC SWORD: QUEST FOR CAMELOT (U)

The first full-length product of Warners' new animation division, this Arthurian adventure seems even cheesier than the average Disney effort. West End: Odeon Marble Arch, Rio Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End

### THE METROPOLIS (18)

Seventies suburban morality tale in which Christian Bale plays a man festering somewhere in the commuter belt when his oldest friend thinks that he ought to be out having fun. There are some endearing moments, but, on the whole, director Philip Saville shows a dispiriting lack of ambition. West End: Metro, Virgin Haymarket

### THE METRO (18)

Within the restrictions of a PG certificate, Eddie Murphy shows that his talents are more pliable than they might have first appeared. West End: Elephant & Castle Coronet, Hammersmith Virgin, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End

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### THE METRO (1

**HAMMERSMITH**  
VIRGIN (0870-9070718) ♦ Ravenscourt Park/Hammersmith Armageddon 5pm, 8.30pm Dr Dolittle 12.15pm, 2.20pm The Horse Whisperer 1.20pm, 4.50pm, 8.15pm Lock, Stock And Two Smoking Barrels 12.40pm, 3.30pm, 6.30pm, 9.10pm The X-Files 12.15pm, 3pm, 6pm, 9pm.

**HARROW**  
SAFARI CINEMA (0181-426 0303) ♦ Harrow-on-the-Hill/Harrow & Wealdstone Duplicate 8.45pm Ghulam 1.30pm, 5pm Kereeb 8.45pm Major Saab 1.30pm, 5pm.

**HARROW**  
WARNER VILLAGE (0181-427 9009) ♦ Hilltop Cinema on the Hill Armageddon 11.40am, 2.50pm, 6pm, 8.40pm, 9.10pm, 11.40pm The Avengers 7.40pm, 9.50pm, 11.45pm Barney's Great Adventure 10.40am Dr Dolittle 1.00am, 12.20pm, 4pm, 7.40pm The Horse Whisperer 1.20pm, 4.50pm, 8.15pm Lock, Stock And Two Smoking Barrels 12.40pm, 3.30pm, 6.30pm, 9.10pm The X-Files 12.15pm, 3pm, 6pm, 9pm.

**HOLLOWAY**  
ODEON (0181-315 4213) ♦ Holloway Road/Archway Armageddon 1.30pm, 4.35pm, 7.40pm The Avengers 9.15pm Barney's Great Adventure 11.45am Dr Dolittle 12.00pm, 2.15pm, 3pm, 4.20pm, 5.05pm, 6.25pm, 7.10pm Eve's Bayou 6.20pm, 8.50pm Godzilla 3.00pm, 5.15pm, 7.55pm Lock, Stock And Two Smoking Barrels 1.40pm, 4.30pm, 6.30pm, 8.55pm Lost In Space 8.30pm The Magic Sword: Quest For Camelot 1.20pm, 5.10pm The X-Files 10.20am, 10.50am, 1pm, 1.30pm, 3.40pm, 4.10pm, 6.20pm, 6.50pm, 9pm, 9.40pm, 11.50pm, 12.10am.

**JLFORD**  
ODEON (0181-315 4223) ♦ Gants Hill Armageddon 1.20pm, 4.30pm, 7.50pm Barney's Great Adventure 11.40am Dr Dolittle 12.00pm, 2.20pm, 4.40pm, 6.40pm, 9pm The Horse Whisperer 12.40pm, 4.10pm, 7.40pm Lock, Stock And Two Smoking Barrels 12.10pm, 3pm, 5.50pm, 8.30pm The X-Files 12.10pm, 2.50pm, 5.40pm, 8.40pm.

**KINGSTON**  
ABC OPTIONS (0870-9020409) BR: Kingston Armageddon 7.45pm Dr Dolittle 1.45pm, 3.45pm, 5.45pm Lock, Stock And Two Smoking Barrels 1.10pm, 3.35pm, 6.05pm, 8.35pm The X-Files 2pm, 5.30pm, 8.15pm.

**MUSWELL HILL**  
ODEON (0181-315 4217) ♦ Highgate Armageddon 8.05pm Dr Dolittle 1.45pm, 2.55pm, 4.35pm, 6.15pm The Horse Whisperer 12.50pm, 4.10pm, 7.40pm The Magic Sword: Quest For Camelot 12.20pm The X-Files 2.10pm, 5.50pm, 8.30pm.

**PECKHAM**  
PREMIER (0181-235 3006) ♦ Peckham Rye Armageddon 2.55pm, 6pm, 8.05pm Barney's Great Adventure 12.35pm Dr Dolittle 12.15pm, 2pm, 4.35pm, 5.45pm, 7.45pm The Horse Whisperer 1.10pm, 3.40pm, 6.30pm, 8.30pm The X-Files 2.10pm, 5.15pm, 8.30pm.

**PURLEY**  
ABC (0870-9020407) BR: Putney Bridge/Brixton Armageddon 7.40pm Dr Dolittle 1.25pm, 3.25pm, 5.25pm Lock, Stock And Two Smoking Barrels 2.40pm, 5.40pm, 8.30pm The X-Files 2.10pm, 5.10pm, 8.10pm.

**PUTNEY**  
ABC (0870 9020401) ♦ Putney Bridge/Brixton Armageddon 8pm Dr Dolittle 1.15pm, 3.30pm, 5.45pm The Horse Whisperer 12.40pm, 4.10pm, 7.40pm The Magic Sword: Quest For Camelot 12.10pm Paulie 12.30pm Soul Food 12midnight The X-Files 1.25pm, 4pm, 6.35pm, 9.10pm, 11.45pm.

**RICHMOND**  
ODEON (0181-315 4218) ♦ Richmond The Horse Whisperer 1pm, 4.30pm, 8.10pm Lock, Stock And Two Smoking Barrels 1.40pm, 4.10pm, 6.40pm, 9.30pm The X-Files 1.20pm, 3.10pm, 6.10pm, 9.10pm.

**ROMFORD**  
ABC (0870-9020419) BR: Romford Armageddon 4.55pm, 7.55pm Dr Dolittle 1.20pm, 3.05pm Lock, Stock And Two Smoking Barrels 1.40pm, 4.10pm, 7.05pm, 9.30pm Barney's Great Adventure 1pm Dr Dolittle 2pm, 4.10pm, 7pm The Little Mermaid 1pm Lost In Space 8.50pm The Spanish Prisoner 3pm, 6.10pm.

**SIDCUP**  
ABC (0541-555131) BR: Sidcup Dr Dolittle 1pm, 5.15pm The Horse Whisperer 12.40pm, 4.10pm, 7.40pm The X-Files 5.20pm, 8.15pm.

**STAPLES**  
CORNER VIRGIN (0870-9070717) BR: Cricklewood Armageddon 2pm, 5pm, 8.15pm, 11.30pm Barney's Great Adventure 12.30pm Dr Dolittle 1.20pm, 2.30pm, 4.40pm, 6.40pm, 8.45pm George's Secret Life 10pm The Horse Whisperer 4.15pm, 7.45pm The Little Mermaid 12noon Lock, Stock And Two Smoking Barrels 2.20pm, 4.30pm, 8pm Lock, Stock And Two Smoking Barrels 2.20pm, 4.30pm, 8pm, 8.35pm.

**SUDCUP**  
ABC (0541-555131) BR: Sudcup Dr Dolittle 1pm, 5.15pm The Horse Whisperer 12.40pm, 4.10pm, 7.40pm The X-Files 5.20pm, 8.15pm.

**SUTTON**  
ABC (0870-9020415) BR: Streatham Hill Armageddon 4.35pm, 7.45pm Dr Dolittle 12.40pm, 2.35pm Eve's Bayou 6.20pm, 8.45pm Lost In Space 12.50pm The Real Howard Spitz 1.25pm, 3.40pm, 5.55pm, 8.25pm.

**STREATHAM**  
ABC (0870-9020415) BR: Streatham Hill Armageddon 2.30pm, 5pm, 8.30pm Dr Dolittle 1pm, 3.45pm, 5.45pm, 7.45pm The Horse Whisperer 12.30pm, 4.10pm, 7.45pm The Little Mermaid 12.40pm Lock, Stock And Two Smoking Barrels 1.20pm, 3.30pm, 6.30pm, 9.10pm The X-Files 1.15pm, 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 8.45pm.

**SWANSEA**  
ABC (0870-9020415) BR: Swansea Central Armageddon 4.50pm, 7.50pm Dr Dolittle 12.55pm, 2.55pm Lock, Stock And Two Smoking Barrels 1.00pm, 3.35pm, 5.55pm, 8.25pm The X-Files 2pm.

**TURNPIKE**  
LANE CORONET (0181-888 2519) ♦ Turnpike Dr Dolittle 1.40pm, 3.40pm, 6pm, 8.45pm Lock, Stock And Two Smoking Barrels 1.30pm, 4pm, 6.15pm, 8.35pm The X-Files 2pm, 5.15pm, 8.25pm.

**UXBRIDGE**  
ODEON (01895-813139) ♦ Uxbridge Dr Dolittle 1pm, 3.45pm, 5.35pm Eve's Bayou 1.40pm, 4.30pm, 6pm, 8pm Star Kid 10.55am The X-Files 6pm, 8.50pm.

**WALTON**  
THE 5 GREEN AT WALTON (01932-252852) BR: Walton on Thames Dr Dolittle 2pm, 3.55pm The Horse Whisperer 4.15pm, 7.40pm The Magic Sword: Quest For Camelot 2.20pm The X-Files 5pm, 8.20pm.

**WILLESDEN**  
Belle-Vue (0181-830 0822) ♦ Willesden Green The Horse Whisperer 4.20pm, 6.20pm The Magic Sword: Quest For Camelot 2.30pm.

**WIMBLEDON**  
ODEON (0181-315 4222) ♦ South Wimbledon Armageddon 4.50pm, 7.50pm Dr Dolittle 12.55pm, 2.55pm Lock, Stock And Two Smoking Barrels 1.00pm, 3.35pm, 5.55pm, 8.25pm The X-Files 2pm, 5.15pm, 8pm.

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ODEON (0181-315 4222) ♦ South Wimbledon Armageddon 4.50pm, 7.50pm Dr Dolittle 12.55pm, 2.55pm Lock, Stock And Two Smoking Barrels 1.00pm, 3.35pm, 5.55pm, 8.25pm The X-Files 2pm, 5.15pm, 8pm.

**WILTON**  
THE 5 GREEN AT WALTON (01932-252852) BR: Walton on Thames Dr Dolittle 2pm, 3.55pm The Horse Whisperer 4.15pm, 7.40pm The Magic Sword: Quest For Camelot 2.20pm The X-Files 5pm, 8.20pm.

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